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SACRAMENTO'S GLBT COMMUNITY VOICE

LAMBDA PLAYERS PRESENT

AMY: CONTROL QUEEN

JEN: DRAMA QUEEN

JO: ELLERY QUEEN

PAT: SPORTS QUEEN

Q RAGG

FEBRUARY 2005
VALENTINE'S ISSUE

DOT: BEAUTY QUEEN

IDA: ROMANCE QUEEN

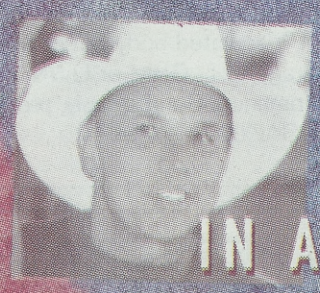
SYD: DRAG QUEEN

NAN: ATTITUDE QUEEN

A WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY

INSIDE: Coming Out at 19, Swanner & Judd's Oscar Picks, Sam's Rant, Q-Valley Fresno, Lambda Players Fundraiser, New Column: Q-Fashion. Q-unity News, Talk To Mother & More!

GRAND DUCHESS JENU UN DUNT &
REGENT GRAND DUKE DEVON PRESENT...



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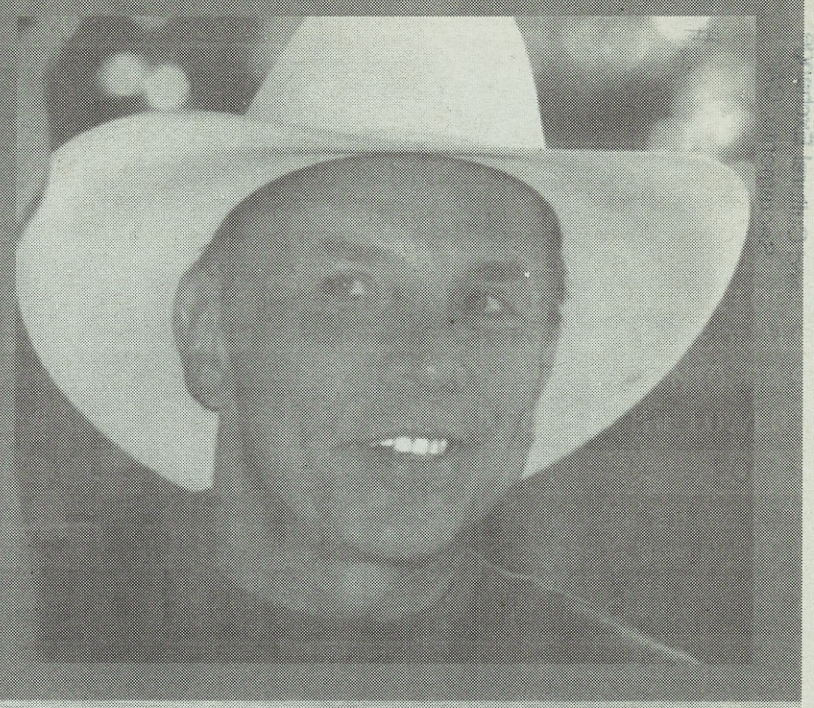

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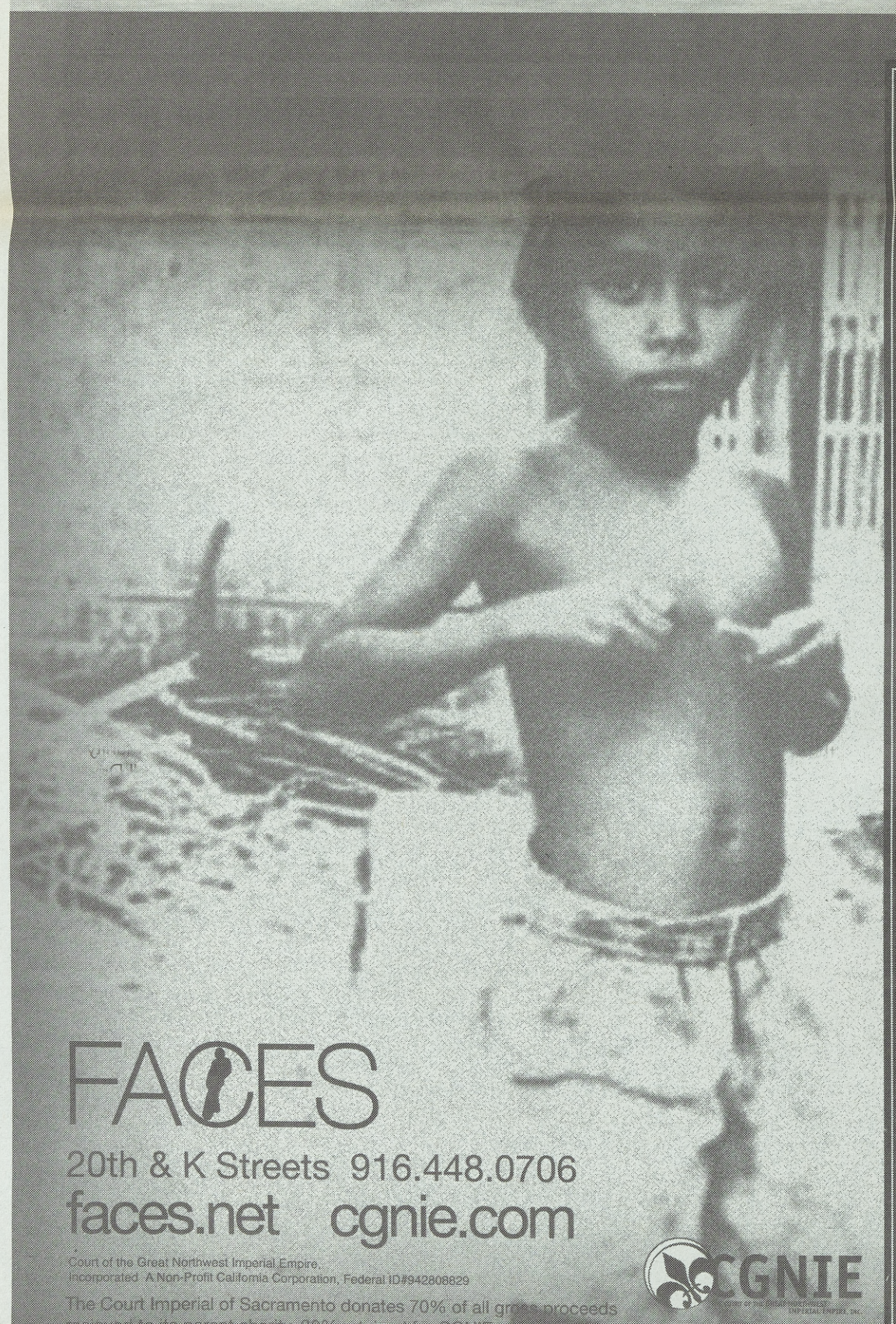

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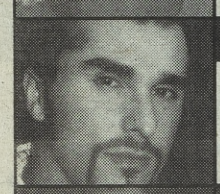
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BRENDAN CRAUGHWELL

Vol. 1, Issue 9 • February 1, 2005 • Valentine's Issue

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY: MATT BURLINGAME • COVER: JUST US GIRLS CAST

ALL ABOUT OUR Q-MUNITY

Man, is January over already? It seems just like last weekend we were all at the **Snoball** having a kick ass start to the new year. But indeed, 1/12 of the year is now over. How are your new year's resolutions? Ours here at **Q-Ragg** are going strong! And we wanted to let you know about a few great things that are going to be starting next month, including a regular about town column by our own **Miss. Bianca**, who received some wonderful recognition for all her hard work with the **Lambda Community Center** last December at the **LLC** Holiday bash. We're proud to have **Miss. Bianca** join our crew! Also next month, we will be adding a regular history feature. Remember that our community is definitely a product of our history and we must never forget those people who worked their asses off paving the way for what we have today.

And one of the things our community has today is a theater of our own! Anyone who missed the **Lambda Players**' bash on the 29th missed one of the best social events of the year! **Marc Koenigsberg** and **Robb Layne** organized one hell of an event and EVERYONE was there! **Mark Hoffman** and **Clayton Whitehead** from **Sports Leisure Vacations**, **Derrick Lawson**, **Guy Crouch**, **Jolene Jessie**, **Jack Maple**, **Sam Catalano**, **Clint Vigen**, **Outword's Charlie Peer** and many more! The theatre is quickly becoming a showpiece for our community! Funds raised for the new theatre were estimated at just over $5,000.

Speaking of that studly **Mr. Yant**, don't forget to stop by **The Bolt** on the first Friday of every month to have him shine your boots as a way to raise money for the **Mr. Bolt Leather Travel Fund**. **John** will be representing us this year at this years International Mr. Leather (IML) contest in Chicago the last weekend of May (Memorial Day Weekend). We're sure to win with **John** representing!

And we're all wondering who the winners are gonna be for this year's **Lambda Community Awards**. Nominations closed the last week of January and will be announced March 21. The event runs 6-10pm, Grand Ballroom, 2001 Point West Way Tickets $75.

It seems there is once again an attempt to develop a GLBT leadership in our community. It started as a community calendar meeting, and somehow became a leadership Group "Representing One Voice." With a panel of eleven volunteer representatives who will chair future meetings and developments for the year 2005. The new—and as yet unnamed *group—will hold public "Town Hall" style meetings every two months, and the leader*ship panel will meet every month. Many have tried this here before, the question is, will this one take? The panel includes **Tina Reynolds** (Uptown Studios), **Paul Curtis** (CARES), **Bonnie Cattando**, **Rev. Charles Cooper** (MCC), **Marghe Covino** (Q-Munity Icon), **Cassandra Davis** (VRP), **JG Gonsalves** (Lambda Center), **Mike Johnston** (Faces/CGNIE), and **Nan McKernan**. The next meeting is on Feb. 10, 6 - 6:45pm, Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St.

While you're there give a hello to Uptown's new coordinator **Rebecca Hawkins** who started as a volunteer in January to keep the gallery's events running smoothly.

It's a Sports Town, Charlie Brown! We are adding two new sporting adventures to our community! The **Capital City Hoopsters** are branching off to form the **Capital City Volleyball League**. They will begin offering co-ed open gym sessions which will take place every Monday night at Rizal Community Center, located at 7320 Florin Mall Drive, in March 2005, for more info contact organizer **Mark Jacobson** at SacVball@aol.com

Also starting is a **womyn's hiking co-op**. To get hooked up on the hiking, send an email to womyn_hiking@yahoo.com

On a sad note, **Charlie Preston**, known to many in the community as cwpres1187@aol.com and ducofdrglr@aol.com suffered an attack of yet unknown origin while checking his email on January 22. **Charlie** was unresponsive and on a respirator for some time, but is now breathing on his own. Though still listed in critical condition, he is showing signs of improvement. We wish him a very speedy full recovery!

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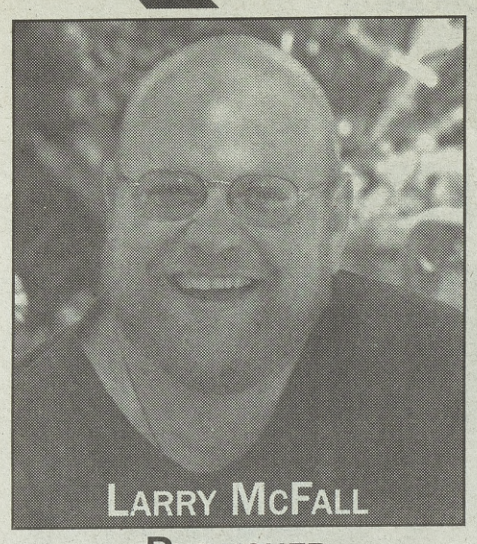
Exploring the Valley



LARRY MCFALL
PUBLISHER

I RECENTLY MADE A COUPLE OF VISITS DOWN SOUTH OF SACRAMENTO TO FRESNO. I have driven through the city dozens of times and never stopped to visit since I didn't know anyone there. I've had friends that are from Fresno talk about the area and the community, so I wanted to check it out for myself. I decided to go down for one night, visit a couple of the drinking establishments, even though I don't drink myself, and see if I could get a feel for the GLBT community there.

What a pleasant surprise I found in Fresno. I had taken Curtis Hagen, Q-Ragg's photographer, with me, and when we got to town the first place we went was called, The Red Lantern. It's not a big bar—it reminded me of the old Wreck Room, down off Broadway that's not there anymore. It was 3pm, so it wasn't really busy. There were only four or five people in the bar, and that's counting the bartender, Mark. Two of the other patrons were off duty bartenders—Ricky and Greg Anne. Curtis and I visited with them for an hour or so, then checked into our hotel, which the guys were kind enough to recommend.

After checking into our room and grabbing a bite to eat, we drove over to The Den. This bar was about half the size of the Red Lantern, but had a lot of heart to it. Dave Coy introduced himself as one of the owners/manager of the bar, and also introduced his bartenders Wayne and David. This was probably one of the friendliest places I've ever been to. More then half of the people that walked into the bar came up, said "hello" and introduced themselves. This place is a lot like The Bolt—more of a Levi, leather and bear bar with a nice yet small backyard and a fire pit to keep you warm—just in case you don't find someone to take care of that. It's quite a bit smaller then The Bolt, but has a good feel to it.

I spent a good part of the evening talking to Allen at the bar, many members both current and past of their Court, Johnny, Nel, Jon and Mark, along with many other members of the community. It was here that the Court member asked me to be a judge at their annual Closet Ball, (see story & photos inside).

There are only four gay bars in Fresno, and one of them, Déjà vu, is closed on Wednesdays, when we were there, so around 11pm Curtis and I said our goodbyes and drove over to see the other bar that was open that night. This bar was called N.T.C. or North Tower Circle. When we got there, there were only three cars in the parking lot. All three belonged to the employees, so we visited with the bartender for a short time and then left. It was only a week after New Years, so he said most everyone must have been partied out for the week. N.T.C. is a nice club, more along the lines of FACES in Sacramento. It is a dance club with lots of lights and a fog machine to give it some atmosphere.

After the drive down, which isn't too bad, only about two hours with no traffic, Curtis and I were a bit tired so we decided to call it a night and went back to our room and crashed. We got up the next morning and headed home, but went back down just 10 days later for another visit. With such great people to visit, I may just have to make more trips to Fresno, and I recommend it for others as well. I haven't found a better community hospitality wise. Sacramento's a great place and I love it here, but Fresno has a lot to offer and I won't use it a drive thru anymore!

PUBLISHER@Q-RAGG.COM

Sam's Rant: "I Could Just Puke!"

By Sam Catalano/Q-Ragg

HOPEFULLY YOU WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO NOT HAVE TO WATCH OR LISTEN TO EMPEROR BUSH II AS HE *DELIVERED HIS STATE OF THE* UNION ADDRESS TO CONGRESS. If you could stomach it, maybe you perused his comments the next day in the paper. And then, after you read how he is determined to spread freedom and liberty around the world, you went into the bathroom and puked. Liberty and freedom for whom? For white male, born-again Christian homophobic bigots? Certainly not for gays and lesbians. Oh, no, not in our sacred fundamentalist Christian country (according to the Republican Party of Texas), we can't allow those perverts to participate in "liberty and justice for all." Oh, my God no, "that would represent the end of Western civilization as we know it." (Guess who said that?)

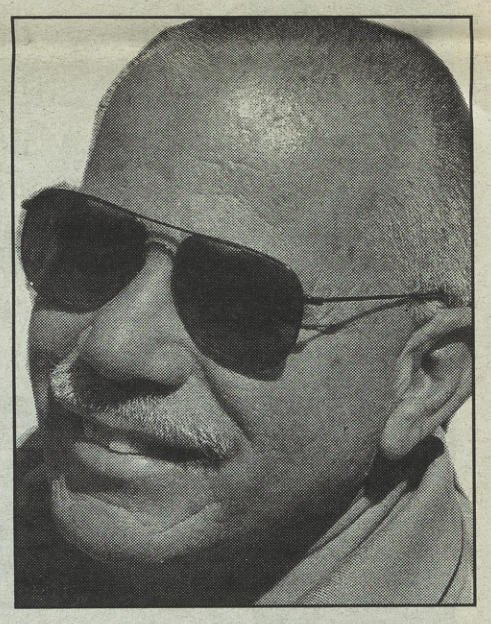
I am absolutely beside myself that Emperor Bush II could utter those words and not be struck dead by his own Christian god for the mockery he has made of his faith. (Maybe this is just another proof there isn't a god because she should have done him in by now).

As we watch the daily carnage that is taking place in Iraq, as we think about the tens of thousands of innocent Iraqi women and children who have been murdered on Emperor Bush's order, the 1300 dead American soldiers, you have to wonder which Jesus he has been talking to. Emperor Bush II loves to preach how Jesus is not only his savior, but his guide and best friend. I would love to eavesdrop on his conversation with Jesus.

"Howdy, JC, GB here. Well, we killed another 30 infidel women and children today, all in your name. Though, JC, we just call them c-o-l-a-t-e-r-a-l so they're not really human beings. Oh, and I helped another 12 white born again Christian males to become billionaires this week. And let's us just skip over the 1000 children who lost their health insurance this week—they were probably undeserving infidel children anyway." I know I could do an entire comedy routine on that conversation if it weren't so sad and didn't make me so angry.

And I know Brittany Spears feels so much safer now that the Republican Party is reintroducing the Federal Marriage Amendment in Congress. After all, according to that good born-again Christian Emperor Bush II, we can't let those perverts attack our holy and sacred institution of marriage. No, we have to save that holy and sacred institution for heterosexual adulterers like State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, President Clinton, House Speakers Gingrich and Livingston; for convicted serial killers like Richard Ramirez. You know all those good upstanding heterosexuals.

The hypocrisy, double standards and lies of Emperor Bush II and the Republican homo-haters just makes me want to puke!!!!



Dear Editor...

The board of Lambda Players would like to thank Marc Koenigsberg and Robb Layne for their wonderful work in organizing the Lambda Player's Theatre Chair Fundraiser. Genuine thanks also go to Peckers entertainment, David Lee Catering, all the wonderful volunteers and of course those who so generously donated to our community's new theatre. All together the event raised over $5,000. We couldn't have done it without all of you! Thank you so much! See you opening night!

Tom Swanner,
President, Board of Directors
Lambda Players, Inc.

We, the undersigned four ex-presidents of the Lambda community Fund, were appalled to learn the present Lambda Community Fund Board of Directors has trashed some very wonderful Sacramento history and history of the GLBT movement by changing the name of the Lambda Freedom Fair, which was established in 1984, to the meaningless name of Sacramento Pride. The Lambda Freedom Fair has been successful from its first fair in 1984 to the 2004 Fair which attracted many thousands of attendees and raised a record amount of money to support the Lambda Community Center which the original Fair monies created.

What does Sacramento Pride mean? Is it a celebration to tell people we are proud of Sacramento? This action makes no sense. The Lambda Community Fund should sponsor an event that bears its name as this is the very reason the Fund is in existence.

The board claims it took an "informal survey" but can't say when the survey was done nor how many people were surveyed only that everyone they asked liked the name "Sacramento Pride."

The present board claims it is too much trouble to explain to people what the Lambda Freedom Fair means or stands for. What rubbish! What a shirking of responsibility and opportunity to explain our history and the meaning of our symbols.

IThe lambda is the lower case L in the Greek alphabet and was the first symbol adopted by the modern GLBT movement immediately after the Stonewall Riots. L is for Liberation. At a Lambda Board meeting held on January 26, 2005, a board member contended the word "Freedom" harkened to the "old" civil rights movement. Since when is our civil rights movement "old?" It seems to me that our battle for equality has been ongoing. The GLBT movement has not achieved freedom or anything close to it. We are under attack in almost every state in the Union. We have a President who has said he wants a to amend the Constitution to ban same sex marriage. Seventeen states now have amended their constitutions to ban same sex marriage and a number of those also ban domestic partnerships. Several states are moving to ban adoption of children by any non-heterosexual or single person. The new Secretary of Education trashed the Public Broadcasting System for sponsoring a program which featured some lesbian characters in the program and demanded the producers return a grant given to them by the Federal government. James Dobson has denounced the creators of the Sponge Bob cartoon character for promoting homosexuality. Take a look at the words. Freedom denotes militancy and activism, pride denotes complacency and accomplishment. The forces of the Radical Religious Right is trying to roll back every advancement we have made since Stonewall. Now is the time for us to continue to actively proclaim freedom and equality. It is time for us to treasure our history and traditions. It is time for militancy not complacency.

We, four ex-presidents, urge the Lambda Board to honor our history. Do not demean the work of countless GLBT people who have dedicated their lives to civil rights and social justice—not only for our community—but for everyone.

We urge the Sacramento GLBT communities to contact the Lambda Board to restore the Lambda Freedom Fair!

Jerry Sloan, Co-Founder, President Emeritus, Marghe Covino, President Emeritus, Bates Botting, Ex-President Gayiel Von, Ex President

Letters to the Editor: Please include your first and last name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters or emails submitted without this information will not be printed. Letters may be edited for space. Thank you.
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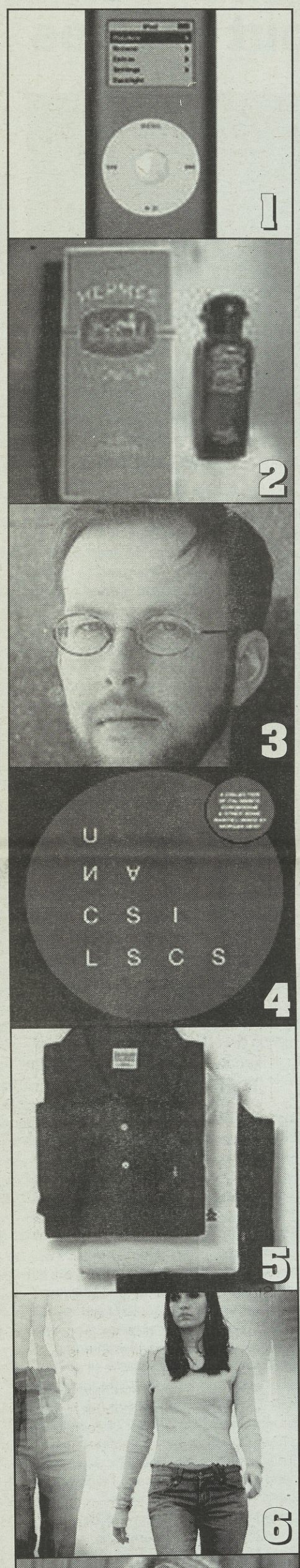

New Year...New Look!

By Steven D. Willey/Q-Ragg

GREETINGS & SALUTATIONS IN 2005, THE YEAR OF THE GREEN COCK. With the New Year comes all the resolutions we make and break by March. I have opted for the standard resolutions, quit smoking, stop drinking (as much) and of course to lose that pesky spare tire. This year however, I have another resolution, to put a stop to the Abercrombie zombies.

For many years now I have observed our gay community of all genres from leather bear to club twink, clad head to toe in Abercrombie & Fitch attire. Let's take a moment to digress back to the '70s and '80s—remember the gay look then…. The cloned construction Village People look …hmm...seems we have history repeating?

I understand why A & F is so attractive to many gay men and women because of the image they propel the "ultra straight","all American" look and the half-nude models don't hurt. What I don't understand is why our community wants to dress themselves in clothing that propels an image that so contrasts our diverse community. In recent months A & F came into public scrutiny after agreeing to pay an approx. $40 million settlement in a class action, discrimination lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed June 2004 in San Francisco by Asian and Hispanic groups alleging that A & F hires a disproportionately white sales force and puts minorities in less-visible jobs. According to one Asian claimant, a corporate official had pointed to an Abercrombie poster and told the management at the store, 'You need to have more staff that looks like this.' And on that poster was a Caucasian model. The company claims to have a zero tolerance policy about discrimination—however, the image they created: the Caucasian, football-playing, blonde-hair, blue-eyed, skinny, tall males says otherwise. I just cannot believe in our modern age of communication, we still have problems with racial intolerance, today "All American" is not all white but a patchwork of colors.

Most of the "Sac town" people I meet go with clothing choices that are safe and use where we live as an excuse to be lazy about how they dress. I cannot tell you how many Sac boys I see always in those baggy cargo pants/shorts…My God! Can I just say... ENOUGH with the CARGO PANTS! If I never see another pair of cargo pants it would be too soon. I think 2005 is the year for a style shift, there are some people that don't realize a decade or two has passed them by. Twenty years later they are still wearing that "Members Only" jacket, except now it just happens to be in again. As with anything in life as well as fashion/style it's not always good to be safe *all* the time, There are moments when you need to take risks, you know, spice it up.

Thanks now to *Queer Eye* and all the metro-males these days, men's clothes are changing and there are lots more choices out there. As one queen to another why would you want to adorn yourself with clothing that is devoid of any kind of imagination? Investment wise, why would you want to spend $50 on a T-shirt that looks like it has been dragged behind your car for a week and run over by a heard of elephants? When $50 would buy something with way more originality at Urban Outfitters (at least) for example.

Even in our town there are many specialty stores and boutiques to fit every budget, taste, like and fit—now you know, now you have no excuse! I implore the Abercrombie zombies in 2005 to consider weaning yourself off of the A & F addiction. May I suggest you introduce some new pieces and integrate them to your existing wardrobe. Lucky for you it just so happens in the fashion world, the talk has been "fashion schizophrenia" (Not to belittle the seriousness of any person with mental illness). This means taking something luxurious, pristine or just really great and mixing it with something mass market, cheap, found and or thrift.

To achieve this look it need not be expensive or so drastic you look like a male version of *Annie Hall* circa 1977. Here are a few conservative examples to consider. Try your worn and faded A & F jeans, T-shirt, add a stuffy old vintage, wool tweed sportcoat (preferably Brooks Brothers) and wrap it all up with some really chic shoes—Ta da! Instant update. A evening option would be to take that A & F tee and turn it inside out, rip off the tag (ala Bill Murray lost in translation) add some really great leather pants or dress pants, throw in a piece of chunky jewelry & presto from shabby to chic. You can also change your look without walking into a shop. Simply trot yourself to your neighborhood alterations shop and have that baggy shirt fitted for a cleaner look. In closing, the message here is to step outside that played out mass market and exhibit your own "rainbow" and show to the world who you are and not what the world wants you to be.

STEVIE'S TOP 10 FOR FEBRUARY

#1 I pod never leave home with out it
#2 Hermes Eau d'orange verte
#3 The Hunted Hillbilly by Derek McCormack
#4 CD Morgan Geist Unclassics
#5 The original Penguin polo
#6 Joe's Jeans
#7 Phytologie holding gel
#8 Martha Stewart getting out of jail
#9 V magazine
#10 Riverside club house

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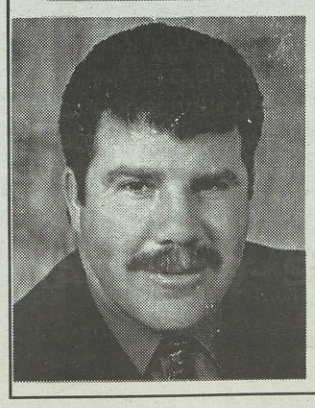

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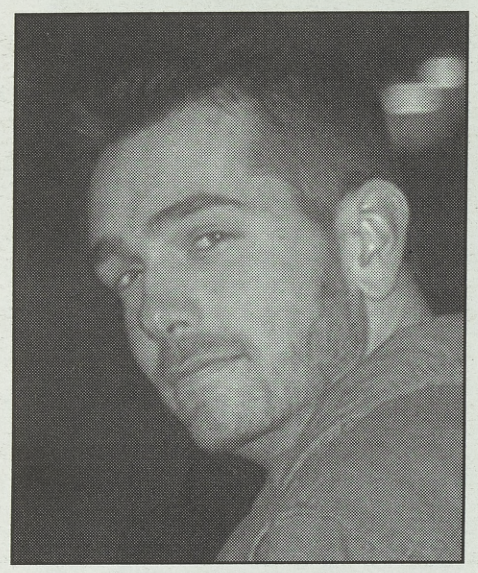
Q-Ragg couple share their coming out stories



Q-Ragg Photographer
Curtis Hagen

It's been 5 years!

I recall the evening well. It was April 21, 1999, shortly after my 20th birthday, I sat facing my brother and his soon-to-be wife, telling them there was something on my mind for a very long time. "I'm bisexual," I said simply. My brother immediately chuckled. Finishing his bite of cheese dipped corn chip, he responded comically, "Oh, in that case you wont ever have trouble getting a date!" Well, how right he was, but I wasn't breaking this news because I wanted to continue dating women. I wanted to explore dating guys, instead.

"Wow!" I thought. That was the very first time hearing those words from my own mouth. Prior to that I never thought of sharing "I like guys," to anyone. It was something that I was going take to my grave, but thankfully did not. At wasn't overnight I came to terms with my sexuality. I had battled with it for more than15 years.

Growing up, I was ashamed of my same-sex attraction. I struggled with depression, and was always confused about my sexual identity because gay and straight did not adequately describe all I was feeling, as I was attracted to both sexes, (guys more so) but nonetheless both. I fell in love with people, not genders. I was raised with the idea sexuality was simply black and white, gay or straight, so I never had the answers.

As early as five, I played sexual games with my neighborhood male friends. We would hide in dark, empty closets, pulling down our pants and feeling each other up, pretending "this is what I'd do to a girl if we had the chance." From the looks of it, it didn't seem any of us was interested in having that chance, either.

Other times the neighbor's side bushes we filled with us; little people moving about inside the bushes, we took turns kissing each other's asses, and peeking through branches as not to get "caught." But we weren't so lucky when my brother rode.

"What are you guys doing in the bushes?" he asked. We all began frantically pulling up our pants. "Oh, uhhh…nothing!" was my immediate response. Well, he decided were doing something, so he rode home and to told Mom. She called me inside the house and badgered me until I confessed I had kissed Calvin's ass, but I didn't mention the rest. She then took it upon herself to tell the other moms, too! At that point, I thought it best to just die, rather than suffer the embarrassment and humiliation of being a five year old homo. I thought, "today the parents know, tomorrow school, and then…the world." She told me what I had done was wrong, and to never "that" again, though she was not specific about "that," so from that point on, being gay was bad.

Then puberty hit me in the 7th grade, and I began looking at the girls, at the same time silently checking out the other guys. Of the many I had liked, there was one guy who stood out, one who I wanted to do 'everything' with, if you know what I mean. My hormones were literally jumping out of my jeans, as I stared at him from the back row in science class, playing pocket pool, and creaming my shorts.

High school was the same. I dated girls, but fantasized over their brothers instead. I had no trouble in high school. What people did not know, didn't seem to bother them.

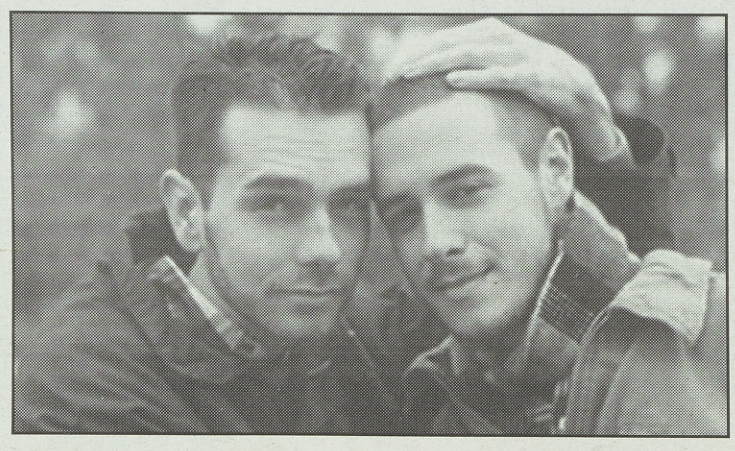
It wasn't until college that I met a couple people who were openly gay. Through the halls and inside the classrooms, they spoke openly about their homosexuality, and what they shared stuck with me.

There were 2 months before telling my brother that I had thought of my sexuality most. As I read and learned more about others experiences through gay and bisexual resources, my excitement of telling someone grew. It wasn't so important for others to know, as it was vital that I became comfortable with all of myself.

Deep down, I knew my attraction for men was not going away, and had to face myself, which was not easy, but it had to be done. It took time to battle all the confusion, fear, questioning, ignorance, social pressures, conditioning, and internalized homophobia, but eventually with understanding and support, the chains were broken and my bisexuality evolved into homosexuality. I became a stronger person. Today, as I continue learning of myself and others, my consciousness continues to expand through this journey called life.

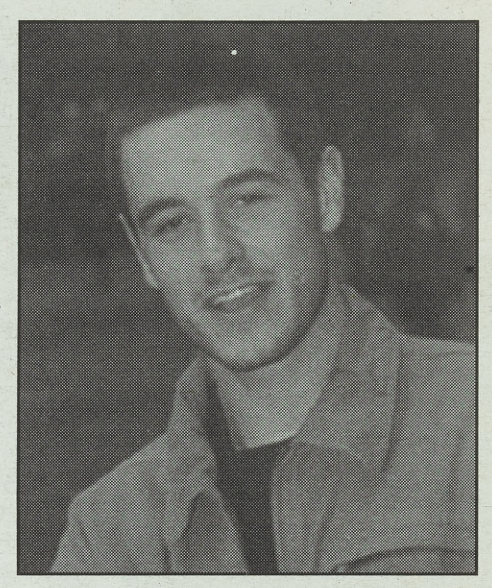
As there are so many persons whom have come out of the closet, there are still so many more in. We are in great numbers. It's a shame our culture isn't more accepting of variety. If only GLBT persons were poke-a-dotted, then would people witness and recognize the diversity surrounding them, and have more reason to celebrate their friends and loved ones.

I dedicate this to my loving companion, Jonathan, who inspired me to share my story after witnessing his strong spirit to coming out, and who continues to bless and inspire. And to Matt Burlingame for inspiring my sexual liberation.



Curt Hagen
& partner
Jon Shelton

Coming Out at 19



Q-Ragg Writer
Jon Shelton

How it all started: The whole thought of coming out really scared me. A few months ago, I was walking down 21st Street with my friends Candice and Josh. Candice was looking for bookstores, and we saw The Open Book across the street. Candice wanted to stop in and see if they had the book she was looking for, but Josh informed her (and me) that The Open Book was more or less a "gay bookstore." At this point I made a mental note to self of The Open Book, and decided that when I got to the point that I was ready to learn about my sexuality, The Open Book would be the perfect place to start.

So a few weeks later after I got out of school, I finally had worked up the guts to drop in, take a look around, and try to learn something about myself. Of course, I was pretty freaked out my first time in, just because all my life, I had heard that being gay is immoral, so I had spent years denying it. So needless to say, it took me time to adjust and feel comfortable in a gay environment.

I came back to The Open Book every few days after school and started getting more comfortable with the environment, and with myself. Then one day, I was standing at the magazine rack reading, and I noticed someone to my left out of the corner of my eye. I slyly looked to my left, and I saw a very handsome guy who seemed to be about in his early 20s. I got nervous, so I looked back to what I had been reading and pretended I hadn't seen him. A minute or two later, he spoke to me. He was holding the magazine *Bound and Gagged* so I could see it, and said "Check it out, that stuff's crazy!" I took a step or two toward him and took a quick look, and shut the magazine, and agreed with him. We spent a second chuckling about it, and then began talking. I introduced myself at one point, and he introduced himself as Curtis. I asked Curtis if he wanted to go sit down outside and chat. So we spent a good hour or so talking. He seemed like a very interesting person, and he seemed interested in me, as well. So before he had to leave, we exchanged phone numbers and decided to get together soon and learn more about each other, which over time, we did. Before long, we entered a relationship together.

It wasn't until this relationship that I began to consider coming out. I decided that I would be most comfortable starting off by telling a girl who I had become friends with through a Tai Chi class at CSUS. I felt comfortable that either she would accept me, or, if she didn't, it wouldn't be too big of a loss as we had no history together prior to the class. So I told her, and the reception was great! I was able to share with her years of anxiety and frustration, as well as my excitement about my first same-sex relationship.

This acceptance really excited me and inspired me to come out to others close to me. So I came out to a few other close friends over the next few weeks. Each time, it was quite a rush. All of my friends took it pretty well, probably partially due to the strength of our friendships, and probably partially due to the way I went about talking to them.

The way I see it, when you come out to someone that you have known for some time, you are changing their reality, which can scare people. They have gotten to know you under the assumption that you are this way, and then, all of the sudden, one day you tell them you are actually this way. Thus, coming out to people close to you must be done with consideration and sensitivity.

The idea of coming out to my parents really freaked me out. I had the type of relationship with my parents where they would always know pretty much everything about me, so I was feeling guilty about all the sneaking around I had to do. I kept telling Curtis and my supporters that the day was coming very soon, but I kept getting cold feet and putting it off. So on December 30th, an evening I had told my parents I would be home for dinner, I said "this is the day." If I couldn't get myself to do it on this day, I would never be able to do it. So after dinner, when we were all in the living room watching TV, I told them there was something I wanted to share with them about myself. I told them everything. I told them about all of the feelings I had began experiencing since before I even had any clue what they were or meant, and my personal struggles with years of depression and self hatred, along with my recent acceptance and love for who I was. I let them know that I was finally at a point in my life where I was being honest with myself and others, and I was happier than I had been in a long time. Then, I told them about Curtis. I reminded them of my morals, values, and integrity, and how both Curtis and I highly valued a healthy, honest, monogamous relationship.

They were pretty silent the whole time. My dad teared up. They were definitely listening, but I couldn't tell what was going on in their heads. When I asked, they said that it was just a lot to bite off all at once. My father told me that homosexuality wasn't something that they condone or support, but that I was. Although I could see that they were both shaken, they each hugged and kissed me, and told me they loved me. At this point, I knew that they loved me no matter what. Their minds could only open more, and it could only go up from here.

A week has gone by, and not much else has been said about it at all, but we have had Curtis to our house for dinner twice since, and my mom let him spend the night (on the couch). They haven't brought it up or asked questions, but they don't treat or talk to me any differently from before. So all in all, I think they are handling it reasonably well. They are happy that I am happy. Telling my parents was quite a difficult experience, but not half as difficult as keeping all my feelings pent up inside of me, and knowing that I am not being true to myself and the others that I care about. Coming out has been the most liberating experience I have ever had.

Homophobia: aiding terrorists and killing jobs

By Daniel Roth, President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

LAST MONTH GEORGE W. BUSH STOOD BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED CROWD FOR HIS SECOND INAUGURATION AND DECLARED, "TODAY, AMERICA SPEAKS ANEW TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD: ALL WHO LIVE IN TYRANNY AND HOPELESSNESS CAN KNOW: THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT IGNORE YOUR OPPRESSION, OR EXCUSE YOUR OPPRESSORS. WHEN YOU STAND FOR YOUR LIBERTY, WE WILL STAND WITH YOU."

Ironically, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans continue to experience oppression at the hands of our government. Last year the Bush Administration declared that gays and lesbians in the entire federal workforce no longer have job protections. Now gay and lesbian federal workers have no recourse for being fired or demoted for being gay. It is currently legal to fire someone based solely on their sexual orientation in 36 states, and the Department of Defense's implementation of "don't ask, don't tell" for gay and lesbian soldiers has resulted in more than 9,000 service members being discharged.

Last month brought the inauguration of one of the most conservative Presidents this country has ever had, combined with one of most conservative Congresses ever. Given the political reality, some within the Democratic Party are running away from civil rights for gays and lesbians, seeing gays and lesbians as a wedge issue that caused swing voters to vote Republican. But instead of running away, we need to learn to talk to this President and educate Republican Congressional leaders in terms that they will understand. To put it bluntly, homophobia hurts our national security and degrades our economy.

President Bush asserted during his inauguration address, "My most solemn duty is to protect this nation and its people against further attacks and emerging threats." However, Bush's insistence of keeping our military's homophobic "don't ask, don't tell" policy is only opening up our nation to further terrorist attacks. The New York Times recently discovered that 20 of the Arabic speakers so vitally needed by the nation have been thrown out of the military since 1998 because they were found to be gay.

After the first World Trade Center attack, in 1993, government agents revealed an alarming shortage of Arabic speakers. Key notes, videotapes and a phone call pertaining to the September 11, 2001 attack were later found in a backlog of untranslated investigative data. The Pentagon's snooping after gays did not protect our troops or our civilians, but resulted in our government removing people who held the key to accessing necessary intelligence that could have saved thousands of lives and possibly prevented the worst terrorist attack in our nation's history.

While discussing the role of government in our private lives, the President proclaimed in his inaugural speech that, "In America's ideal of freedom, the public interest depends on private character—on integrity, and tolerance toward others, and the rule of conscience in our own lives." Tolerance towards gay and lesbian couples was at the heart of the Presidential debate, with the President advocating for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Although the debate around the amendment focused around activist judges and states rights, policy makers missed a crucial argument: acceptance of gays and lesbians creates jobs.

In his ground-breaking study, "Rise of the Creative Class", urban studies theorist Richard Florida charted and discussed the historic demographic shift that helped explain why some cities flourish and attract innovative people from all ages, while others face declining jobs, rising crime and boarded up windows. His conclusion: Technology, Talent and Tolerance. They all work together. Florida stated, "In a nutshell, we found that creative people are attracted to, and high tech industry takes root in, places that score high on our basic indicators of diversity—the Gay indexes. To some extent, homosexuality represents the last frontier of diversity in our society, and thus a place that welcomes the gay community welcomes all kinds of people." Thus, as Florida concluded, "Where gay households abound, geeks follow." And the venture capitalists follow the geeks, who then create jobs for the entire community.

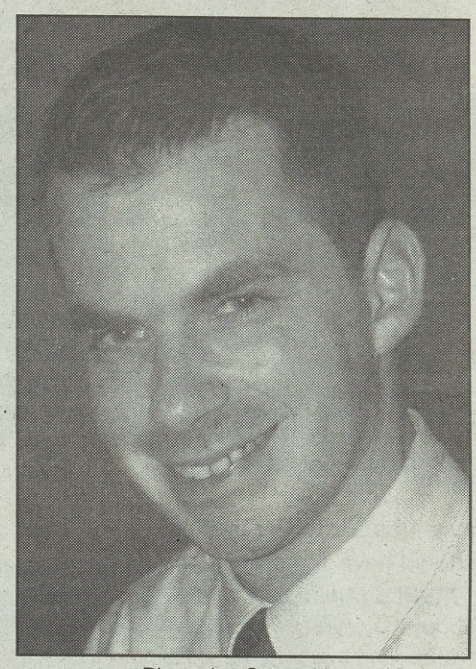
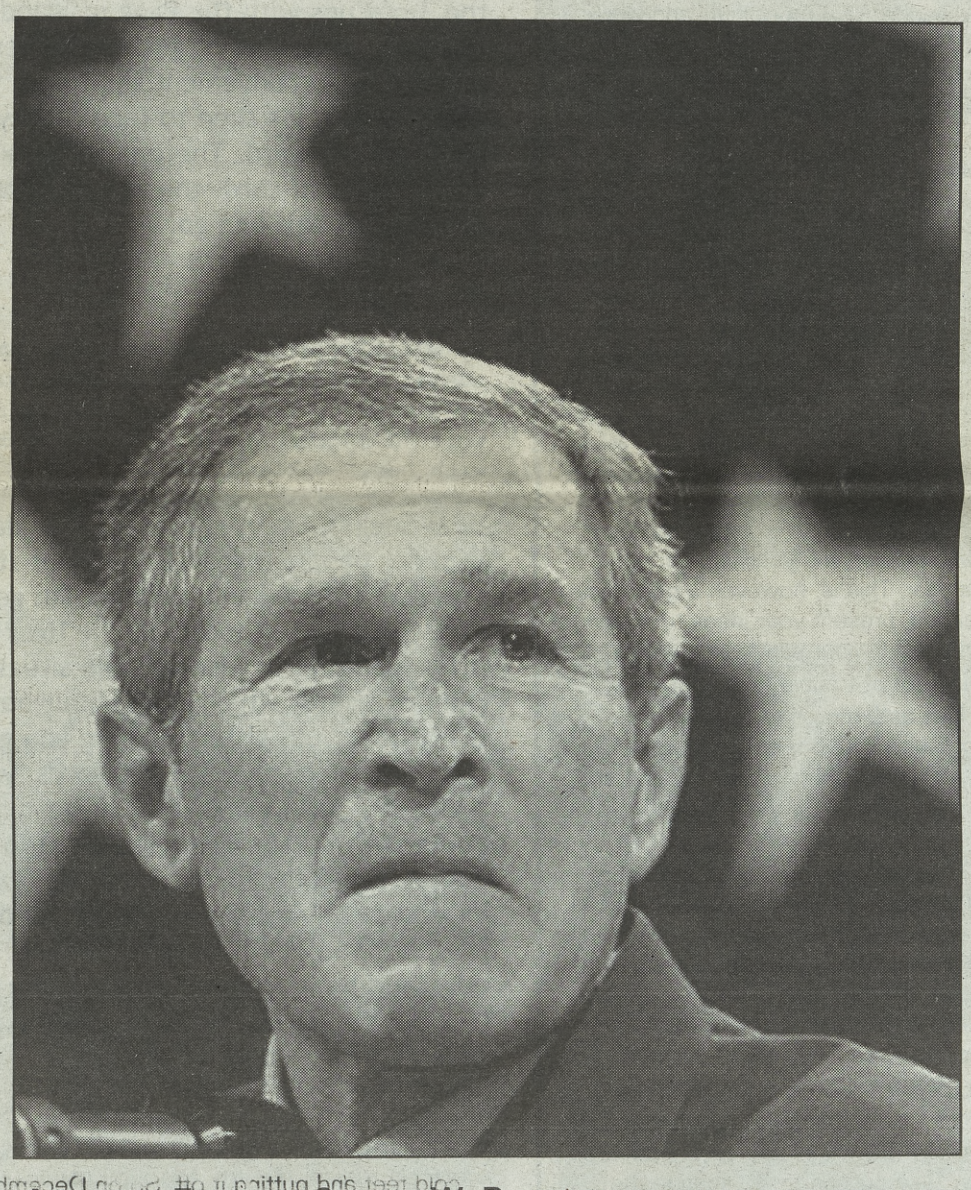


Photo by Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

The evidence speaks for itself. Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, and San Diego have long been the most tolerant cities for gays and lesbians in the United States, and now they are the major hubs of the American high tech and financial sector. Buffalo, Oklahoma City, and Detroit—which have comparable populations to these other cities—are some of the least tolerant to gays and lesbians *and, as Florida would argue, because of this intolerance, are the poorest urban* areas of the county. President Bush and the Republican Party pushing the anti-marriage amendments in 11 states may have appeased the Christian Right, but their actions will ultimately cost them well-paying jobs in the long run.

Although President Bush ended his inaugural address claiming, "America, in this young century, proclaims liberty throughout all the world, and to all the inhabitants thereof," fulfilling this promise will involve making laws and crafting policies that will protect American citizens from terrorist attacks and provide us with a viable economy and healthy jobs. Our current homophobic policies only detract from these goals. Hopefully, the President and the Republican congress will change their minds and advance policies that embrace gays and lesbians instead of discriminating against them—America's security and economy are depending on it.



AMERICAN EMPEROR GEORGE W. BUSH BEGINS HIS SECOND REIGN OF TERROR BY CONTINUING TO WEDGE A DIVIDE IN OUR COUNTRY

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By Nephi

FEBRUARY 2005

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)—Hey tweeker, don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Some of them won't want to hear the TMI details you are too willing to depart in your moments of haste. While your accomplishments could exceed your expectations this month, and you'll enjoy mixing a little business with a lot of pleasure, be sure to stick to the routine, or you'll find yourself dipping into a well that should have remained untapped.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)—Oh Taurus, when are you going to lose the "It's all about me, even when I'm saving the world" B.S.? And indulging in the material world hasn't exactly been helping, has it? You haven't been watching your spending habits and neglecting your duties. Time to get back on the straight (well...) and narrow and learn that a trip to the dollar store can be just as fun as a Macy's shopping spree. and whatever you do this month, keep it to yourself. What other's don't know won't hurt them...yet.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—Your two faces are more apparent than ever. This month it's a battle between the frugal and the gadget with more bells and whistles. You need to figure out what is the most important things to get done and try to find the cheapest way to accomplish your goals. Or maybe you could make extra cash through creative hobbies? Yeah, RIGHT! You've done all you can to sort out the personal stuff—give it a rest.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)—Hey old man, when I said get involved in physical activities that will stimulate you, I didn't mean do every guy in sight! But as long as you're having fun. You have such a unique approach to life, this month it interests others, so put you're best foot forward. And, Mr. Busy-Body, your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation—be prepared for a wild ride if you pursue.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)—Listen, biotch! What crawled up your hole? You've never been a team player, but damn, girl, this month you need to learn others have feelings, too. Disappointments regarding partners will be subject to the way you react to their personal comments. Get involved in activities that will stretch your stamina—lift a weight or build something—careful of your nails, Sugar. Difficulties with *female members of your family may result in estrangements.*

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)—Sexy, flaky Virgo, you just can't stop getting upset over the little crap, can you? state your case without losing your cool, or your gonna be spending Valentine's day alone this year. This is, however, a good time to get that job advancement you've been wanting, present your ideas to superiors and see what happens. Oh, and keep your genitals in your pants unless they are being put where they belong. Flings will cause a lot of trouble this month.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)—Some call you a kiss-ass, others call you a peace-keeper. The real issue is, how do you see yourself? Put your energy into physical outlets and avoid brewing confrontations. Work life will improve when you find solutions for inefficiencies. And that sick need you have to always be in love, uh-huh. Knock it off!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)—You've never been one for the Hallmark Holiday, and this year is no different. Stop wondering if the ex is better than nothing at all and go hang with your friends. Chances are they not only care more about you, but don't want anything from you. Remember, not everyone will be pleased with your plans this month and spending time by yourself will help avoid any conflicts with those you love. And don't be depressed if people don't get you when it comes to sex—you're about 1000 times more advanced than them, anyway. Give your passions to someone who understands—like a fellow Scorpio, Aries or even a Virgo.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)—Self-Important Sag, unexpected visitors are likely, so be prepared to do your chores early. Take out the trash, change the sheets and freshen those not so fresh places. Also, don't you think it's time to let go of the past? Yes, you do—you know it is. Just primal scream, and let all that pent up baggage get lost on the next plane. Do it now, or you may never progress. Don't start any arguments this month unless you're prepared to accept irrevocable results. Foot-in-mouth disease runs rampant for you this month.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)—Look busy-body, people who try to persuade you to do things their way may annoy you, but remain objective and ask yourself if they might not be right. Be sure to sidestep those who are eccentric or unpredictable, while still being considerate in your personal obligations. Remember, there are reasons you cut people from your life, but there are those who annoy you who genuinely love you and are worth the occasional head-butt. Learn the difference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)—Oh yeah, you're all that, aren't you? Uh-huh, well. shut-up and focus on yourself and your own future for a change. Just go with the flow at home and go after your goals at work—like that new job you're wanting. You might just find yourself exploring the world because of a well-placed resume.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Do you have any idea how people perceive you? Take a look in the mirror and drop the act. You really need to get a grip. Remember, you have communication skills and natural likability; just be yourself and it will bring you the popularity you want and increased self esteem. Don't let relatives get the better of you.

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TAROTSCOPES by JESSICA RABBIT

Courtesy Photo by Andrea Young

Dear Jessica,

I have been carrying on an affair with my roommate for several months now. All of a sudden he is being cold and acting like nothing happened between us. This is making my whole living situation very uncomfortable. What's going on? -San Francisco

Well, I have to tell you, it doesn't look too good for romance between the two of you. You are coming up as the 5 of Cups, which is all about sorrow and heartache based on fears and expectations. He is coming up as the Knight of Swords, which indicates immaturity. He strikes me as the type of guy who is afraid of commitment, and it looks like you were starting to expect that from him. The 9 of Swords tells me that you are spending more sleepless nights over this than he is, and the 3 of Cups with the Page of Wands suggest that at this point, your fantasies have kind of gotten the best of you. He thought this was just a casual, convenient sex thing; you, meanwhile, let your heart get involved. It's time to face reality, as indicated by the 6 of Swords, and move forward. There is actually a new relationship (which I see with your final card—the Ace of Cups) on the horizon for you if you can just let this one go.

Dear Jessica,

My elderly father just had hip replacement surgery. He and my sister live halfway across the country, and I can't be there yet. My sister is being a real martyr about how she's doing all the work. I'm going to visit in a week, but now I'm afraid of a fight with her. -Oakland

Dear Seeker, I'm glad to hear your dad got this surgery—it gives a lot of older people a greater sense of strength and mobility when they recover. Your dad will be fine. I'm getting the Hierophant, or High Priest, for him. It looks like he lives to tell the tale, and continues to offer his fatherly wisdom. The situation with your sister is showing me the Devil card, which is all about power struggles and shame. I do not doubt that your sister is giving you guilt trips about not being there; that is clear from the 2 of Swords, which can often indicate family conflicts. But I would also suggest that you are giving yourself guilt about this, and that you should stop. When you arrive, just jump in and be helpful: cooking, cleaning, taking Dad to his physical therapy or whatever. Your sister IS tired, and she IS doing all of the work right now, but you will have your chance, too, and everyone will acknowledge and be grateful that you came out when you could, as indicated by the 6 of Wands. Good luck and good health to all!

Dear Jessica,

I just started back to school, but I don't really feel very excited about it at all. Am I doing the right thing by staying in school? -San Francisco

Dear Seeker, By all means, you should stay in school. The classes and work are not the problem. I am getting the Knight of Cups for you, which makes me think that you are not feeling enthusiastic about school because your mind is occupied with love drama. It looks to me like you've had a break-up, as indicated by the 5 of Pentacles, and that you are feeling lackluster about many different things, not just school. But school is an excellent distraction for broken hearts. It is good to give the mind something to do other than run on the endless treadmill of regret and loss. Your outcome card is the 10 of Cups, which tells me that you needed this breakup to help you reach the transformative state where you can really start to grow. You just have to acknowledge that the romance had to be sacrificed for the greater good of all involved, including you. Once the heartache dulls a bit, which I think will take about a month, you will be able to see more clearly why the break-up was necessary, and then be able to really dedicate yourself to your studies with enthusiasm.

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the Bay Area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person, and can be reached at jessica@sacredtarot.com, or via the web at www.sacredtarot.com. She also reads every Friday night at the White Horse Bar on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

Imperial Dove Court de Fresno/Madera

By Larry McFall/Q-Ragg

On January 15, down in Fresno, I was asked by the Imperial Dove Court de Fresno/Madera, Inc. to be a judge at their annual Closet Ball 2005.

The event is a big fundraiser where community members get to let loose and become something they never dreamed of becoming—a woman, or in some cases a man. This year it was all men in the contest. This was a fun evening where four men were transformed into drag queens for all of Fresno and many out of town visitors to see. I had no idea what to expect since I have never attended nor been a part of anything like this before. There was much more for the audience then just the four contestants though. There were an additional 20 to 30 entertainers at the show.

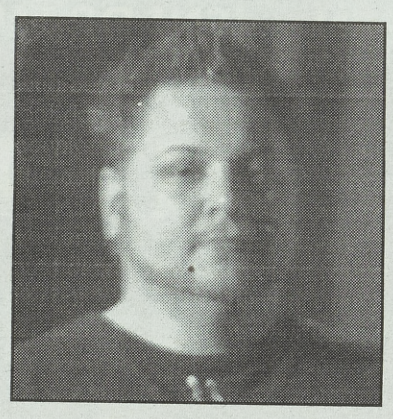
We had a couple of opening acts, then the contestants were introduced. After introductions and judging on the candidates as they are normally are as males, they were given 15 minutes to shave, and an additional hour to transform themselves into the drag beauties of the evening. While they were doing that, we were entertained by Lamonz Dupree, Reigning Empress of L.A. Hollywood, Destiny Diamond, Past Empress of Modesto, Serina De Carlo, a.k.a. "Easy", Empress 29 of Fresno and many, many more.

In the second act of the show, the candidates came out having transformed themselves from male to female and more judging is done on the transformation. We then got another group of entertainers while the candidates changed into their wardrobe for their final performance of the night. They were judged on their final performance as entertainers and the previous year's royalty, Ty Me Down, who was the outgoing King of the Closet Ball 2004, made his final walk down the runway. With that, the final results were tallied and read, and a new Queen was crowned for 2005.

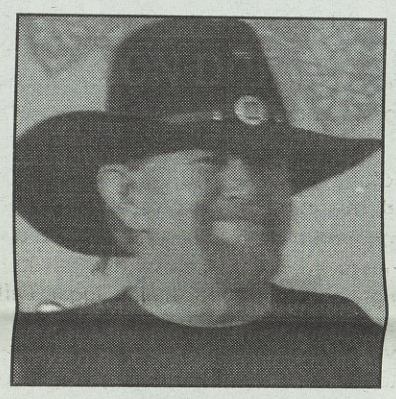
I must congratulate Emperor XXXI, Jon Pace, Empress XXXI Tawny Towers, Emperor XXX Johnny O, the chairman of the event, and his entire committee for a job well done. The evening was a tremendous success. There was a fantastic turnout not only from the local community, but also many out of town guests and entertainers as well. It was a very inclusive evening and I was glad to be a part of it.

To be such a young publication and be invited to such an extravagant affair was truly an honor. You will never see me strutting my stuff on stage at one of these events, but you may see me at more of the Court functions, in Fresno and also here in Sacramento. What a fun group of people to hang out with!

THE WINNER



TINA



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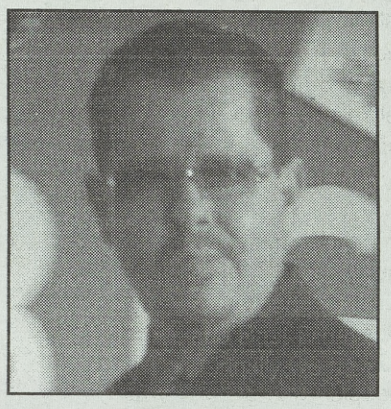

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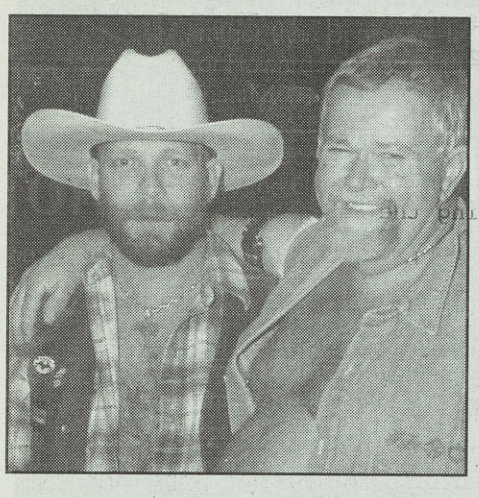

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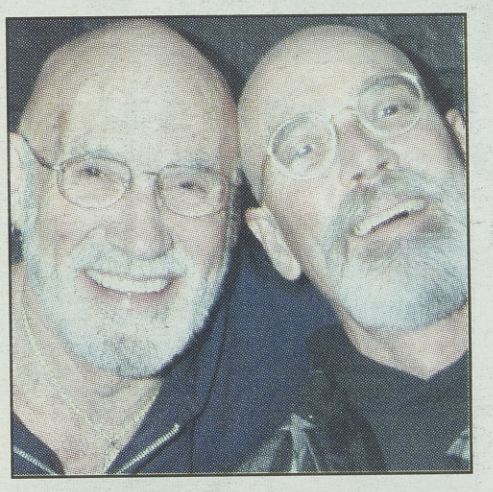
tickets $15, $13 groups of 8 or more
$13 students with ID, seniors 65+, SARTA, LoST
reservation line: 916.444.8229
reservations with credit card only
www.lambdaplayers.com

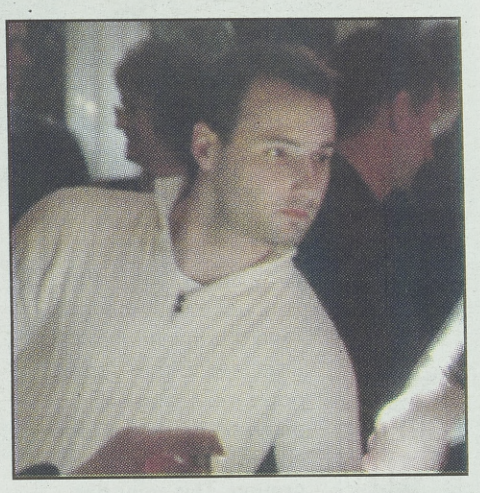
thurs., fri., sat. @ 8pm; sun. @ 2pm
fridays: feb. 11, 18, 25, mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, apr. 1
saturdays: feb. 12, 19, 26, mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, apr. 2
thursdays: feb. 10, 24; sundays: feb. 20, mar. 27
no refunds, exchanges 24 hours in advance

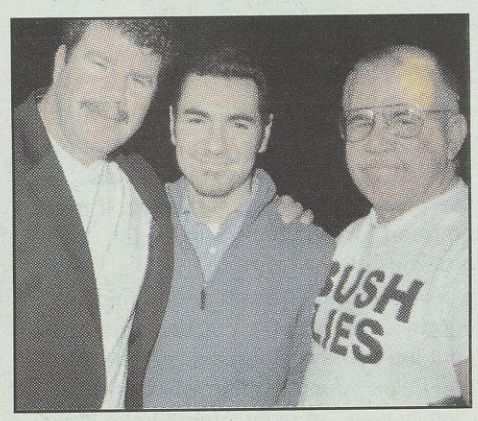
RTG Sports Leisure Vacations RAGG UPTOWN STUDIOS VALLEY RAINBOW PAGES GUY CROUCH

Lambda Players' theater fundraiser a success!



THANKS TO ORGANIZERS MARC KOENIGSBERG AND ROBB LAYNE, AND THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF PECKERS ENTERTAINMENT AND DAVID LEE CATERING, THE LAMBDA PLAYERS' FUNDRAISER WAS NOT ONLY THE EVENT OF THE SEASON, BUT A ROUSING SUCCESS, BRINGING IN OVER $7000 TO HELP WITH THE COSTS OF RENOVATIONS. ATTENDEES BOUGHT AUDIENCE CHAIRS, WHICH WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES ON AN ATTACHED PLAQUE, AS WELL AS BID ON A NUMBER OF AUCTION ITEMS. THE THEATER OPENS WITH ITS FIRST SHOW, THE COMEDY *JUST US GIRLS*, ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11. FOR TICKET INFO CALL: 916.444.8229 OR INFO@LAMBDAPLAYERS.COM





NorCal AIDS CHALLENGE

360 Miles
4 Days
1 Cause

Wednesday, May 18 to
Saturday, May 21, 2005

Benefiting: CARES, Breaking Barriers & AIDS Housing Alliance
Sponsors: Cable Positive, Creative Directions, MGW Newspaper, Coldwell Banker/Carl Connelly Realtors/Jean Kavanaugh, The Jack Maple Team/Countrywide Mortgage, Outword Newsmagazine, Carol Wall & Pat Kearney, The McCalla Family

You're invited to join us on a journey to raise awareness and funds for the fight against HIV and AIDS in the inland northern California region. Whether you're a sponsor, cyclist, crew member, volunteer, or making a pledge, you'll be making a difference.

Accept the Challenge! Visit
www.norcalaidschallenge.org
today for more information

Swanner & Judd's Oscar picks for 2005

BITCH SLAPS
0 GREAT
1
2
3
4
5 WORST

Swanner: On thing I really look forward to after New Years is that they announce the Academy Award nominations. It also means that some good movies usually show up in January for some last minute consideration. This year has been no different. There have been some wonderful movie carryovers from 2004 and many of them have showed up in this year's nominations.

Judd: Unfortunately, I got stuck seeing all the carryover CRAP for 2004-2005 because the decent stuff—like *Million Dollar Baby*—hadn't opened here in Sacramento by the time we had to write this.

Swanner: Well then it's a good thing that I got to see all the good stuff. So what did you think about the Oscar nominations? Any surprises or shocks?

Judd: I'd have to say the whole

THE AVIATOR

Supporting Actor category was a surprise. Clive Owen's performance in *Closer* was completely forgettable. The only thing Alan Alda should get an award for these past two and a half decades is Best Supporting Sedative. Believe me, I don't smoke in bed when I watch *Scientific American Frontiers* on PBS. I didn't see *Collateral*, but I get the feeling that the Academy is trying to stack the odds in Foxx's favor. Thomas Hayden Church? I'm not even going to acknowledge him with a remark.

Swanner: That's why I'm hoping it goes to Morgan Freeman who is without question one of the best actors working today and this time he's in a popular, well-reviewed film. This could be his year to finally get the acknowledgement he deserves. Supporting Actress has a good group of nominees. I'd really like to see Laura Linney win here since she represents *Kinsey*'s only nomination. I did think Cate Blanchett played a wonderful Kate Hepburn in *The Aviator* so her win here would work for me as well.

Judd: Nominations for Male and Female Leads are all well deserved. Unfortunately, I think the only thing Don Cheadle is going to earn is the Best Actor in a Movie Nobody Watched This Year. I predict that Foxx will walk away with Best Male Lead. He's hot right now and he's well on his way to becoming Hollywood elite.

Swanner: I do agree with Jamie Foxx for *Ray*. Jamie has been after an Oscar for years and he really wants it. He's making all the right speeches and being seen at all the right places. I won't mind his win but I thought (believe it or not) that Leonardo DiCaprio was better in *The Aviator*. In the best actress category it looks like Hilary Swank and Annette Benning are the favorites. Imelda Staunton was nominated for *Vera Drake* and has been getting a lot of good reviews but after seeing the film (which I didn't care for) I think it will go for Swank or Benning simple because of their films have had more exposure.

Judd: I guess we should weigh in on *Best Picture, but I'm going to admit the* only one I saw was *Ray* so I can't give my opinion.

Swanner: Once again, It's a good thing I've seen them all. It's actually a decent group of movies that received the nomination, with the exception of *Sideways*. *Finding Neverland* which made my top five list probably won't have much of a chance since it's director was snubbed in the directing category. That leaves *The Aviator* and *Million Dollar Baby*, both are great movies for very different reasons. *The Aviator* is a grand Hollywood movie. I would have thought it was directed by Spielberg rather than Scorsese. It covers the life of Howard Hughes from invention to insanity. The film takes place during Hollywood's heyday with lots of beautiful people and places. I don't want to underplay the film. It's great and at three hours it never dragged or felt long (see *Alexander* for long and dragging). *Million Dollar Baby* is a very personal film (personal means it's quiet a lot) about a boxing trainer who works with a woman for the first time with surprising success. This is really an amazing picture from the acting to the direction to the conversation in the car on the way home. I liked it a lot and it's amazing to see such a mixed bag of Best Picture nominees. I'm going with *The Aviator* which had I seen it before the end of 2004 would have made by Best Picture list as would *Million Dollar Baby* but *The Aviator* was the one what wowed me the most. Usually the Best Director coincides with the Best Picture so this should be the year Scorsese finally wins an Oscar. I'd ask if you agree, but you haven't seen it.

Judd: Kiss my ass. I've been busy, OK? even reviewers have lives.

Swanner: I wasn't implying anything. Hey, you saw *Motorcycle Diaries*. It's up for best song...YEA!!!

Judd: You're just hateful.

Swanner: Yes, I am.

The Aviator flies high above the rest in a month of so-so movies

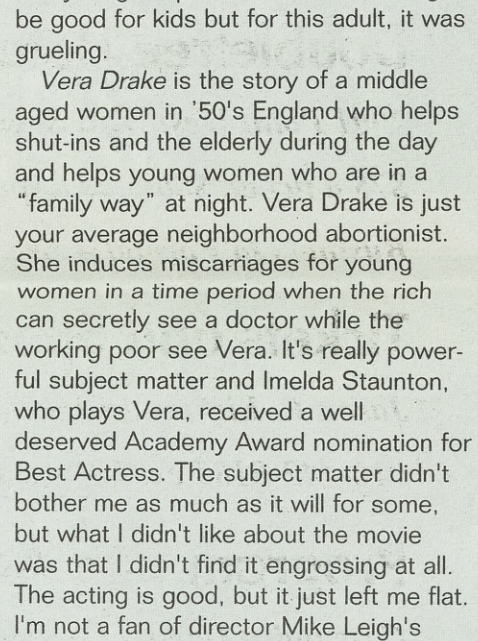
By Tom Swanner.Q-Ragg

This month was interesting because I actually just put my foot down and refused to see a couple movies. I mean if you know the milk has turned do you really need to smell or taste it to know for sure? If you answer "yes you do" then go for it. but I didn't have to see *Are We There Yet?* or *Elektra* and I'm pretty dare happy about it.

I started out the month seeing what I'm sure is going to be on my worst picture list, *Racing Stripes*, and it was everything I expected and more. It might be good for kids but for this adult, it was grueling.

Vera Drake is the story of a middle aged women in '50's England who helps shut-ins and the elderly during the day and helps young women who are in a "family way" at night. Vera Drake is just your average neighborhood abortionist. She induces miscarriages for young women in a time period when the rich can secretly see a doctor while the working poor see Vera. It's really powerful subject matter and Imelda Staunton, who plays Vera, received a well deserved Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. The subject matter didn't bother me as much as it will for some, but what I didn't like about the movie was that I didn't find it engrossing at all. The acting is good, but it just left me flat. I'm not a fan of director Mike Leigh's anyway and this film seems to reinforce that feeling.

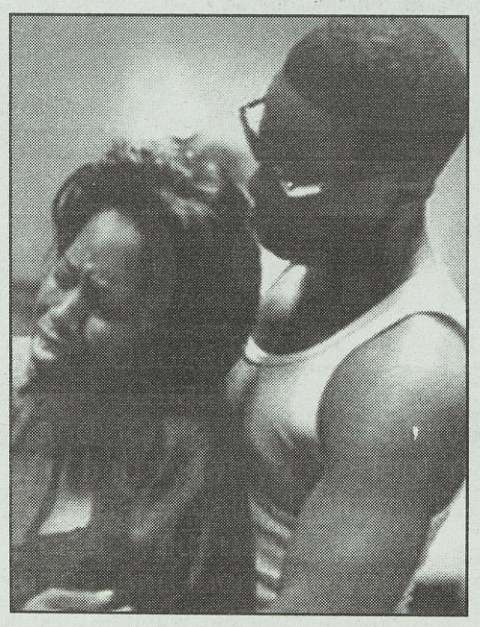
Michael Keaton's new film *White Noise* is the latest film that has made your TV set a scary thing. The static that comes from your TV can be a device to communicate with the dead. Remember Carol-Ann from Poltergeist? It's that kind of a thing. As Keaton's character gets more involved with his experiments the scarier this film gets. This is one of those movies that you really can't judge just how scary it is, until you try closing your eyes to sleep after you watch it or when your cable box isn't working. It could have been scarier but falls in with a current trend to make horror films for preteens.



MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Million Dollar Baby follows a female boxer (Hilary Swank) and her battle to get boxing trainer (Clint Eastwood) to train a woman. This description really is just a small part of this film. It's about boxing, but only as a plot device. This is a film about people who don't want to be at the end of their lives questioning whether or not they lived their life to it's full potential. Eastwood also directed flawlessly and the script is thoughtful and thought provoking. You can't help but care for these people. Morgan Freeman also stars and I would say it's one of his best performances but with the talent he brings to every role he does, it's redundant. All three have received Oscar nominations with Eastwood picking up one for Best Actor and Best Director.

Finally we have my favorite for the month and my pick of the Best Picture nominee *The Aviator*. I don't think it's the Best Picture but of the nominees the Academy picked I think it's the most deserving. Following the life of Howard Hughes is a great task to take on to say the least, but to make it so interesting and entertaining is a real feat. When I heard it was three hours long—I was afraid. But when the closing credits ran I was ready for more. The performances are wonderful, but Leonardo DiCaprio was the real stand out. Howard Hughes was a man haunted by mental illness in a time where mental illness ended with being lock away in an asylum. Hughes hid his disorder, only allowing a few to even glance it. DiCaprio's performance was what I wanted from Nicholson in *The Shining*. He takes Hughes from obsession to madness and it was done brilliantly!



RAY

SWANNER

Racing Stripes—5 bitchslaps
White Noise—2 1/2 bitchslaps
Vera Drake—3 bitchslaps
Million Dollar Baby—0 bitchslaps
The Aviator—0 bitchslaps

Honor Your Community.

Lambda AWARDS 2005

Monday, March 21, 2005 | 6pm to 10pm

The Lambda Community Fund will be honoring the "Best of the Best"; those wonderful people, both inside and outside in the LGBT community, who have distinguished themselves in either their service to our community or their efforts to end discrimination towards us.

Doubletree Hotel | Grand Ballroom

2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA (across from Arden Fair)

$75 a ticket, $800 for a sponsor table of 10

Business to Formal Attire

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Jason R. Kirkland • Jason@lambdasac.org

916-442-0185 ext 103 • www.lambdasac.org

Program and Advertising:

Cassandra Davis • Cassandra@vrp.info • (916) 444-3389 • www.vrp.info

To nominate someone for an award, please visit **www.lambdasac.org/awards**
Nominations will be accepted until Monday, February 7, 2005

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

RAINBOW SPONSOR: OVER $5000

- Full page color ad in Lambda Award program
- Sponsorship included in the Lambda Award title
- 1 year banner on the Lambda Community Center website
- 6 months of advertisements in the Lambda Link newsletter
- Company advertisement/poster placed at the Lambda Awards
- Company advertisement/poster placed in the Lambda Community Center
- Plaque recognizing your sponsorship
- Recognition in the Lambda Community Fund Annual Report

LAVENDER SPONSOR: $3000 - $4999

- Half page color ad in Lambda Award program
- 6 month banner on the Lambda Community Center website
- 4 months of advertisements in the Lambda Link newsletter
- Company advertisement/poster placed at the Lambda Awards
- Plaque recognizing your sponsorship
- Recognition in the Lambda Community Fund Annual Report

GOLD SPONSOR : $1500 - $2999

- Quarter page color ad in Lambda Award program
- 3 month banner on the Lambda Community Center website
- Certificate of appreciation recognizing your sponsorship
- Recognition in the Lambda Community Fund Annual Report

SILVER SPONSOR : $600 - $1499

- Quarter page black and white ad in Lambda Award program
- Certificate of appreciation recognizing your sponsorship

IN-KIND SPONSOR:

- Donation for the silent auction and/or services for the Lambda Awards
- Listed on sponsor page in Lambda Award program
- If donation matches another sponsorship level you will receive those benefits

Hoopsters at Hillcrest Gay Basketball Tournament

By Marc Jacobson/Capital City Hoopsters Media

Team Sacramento made a respectable showing in the annual Hillcrest Classic Gay Basketball Tournament in San Diego, January 15 & 16.

The team, which consists of hand-picked all-stars from Capital City Hoopsters Gay Basketball League, continued to show improvement in only their 3rd tournament in 3 years.

Team Sacramento finished with 3 wins and 2 losses for the two day tournament. During the opening "round robbin" session on Saturday, Team Sacramento "RimRockerz" easily defeated Chicago WCAA All-Stars by a score of 46-28 behind very balanced scoring with 7 of 10 players on Sacramento's roster scoring 7 or more points. Reigning league MVP Erickson Aquino had an especially stellar performance scoring 10 points along with 6 assists, 3 steals and 5 rebounds, however everyone on the team contributed in their own way. The team shot an excellent 50% from the field and completely dominated in the rebounding category too.

In their second round robbin game, Team Sacramento was pitted against the Arizona Desert Storm, 2003 Hillcrest Tournament Champions. No one expected Sacramento to win this game, let alone compete (Because their team is so new to the gay basketball tournament scene) however, the RimRockerz shocked the gay basketball tournament world and took a commanding double digit lead in the second half and held off a furious second half rally by the Desert Storm to win by one point 31-30. Paul Demke led the team in scoring with 11 points with Drew B., Bill Schipper and Jeff Freitas grabbing some key rebounds.

All-Stars from Capital City Hoopsters Gay Basketball League

The third and final game saw a very tired RimRockerz team play a tough San Diego Devils team. Sacramento couldn't seem to make a basket the first half no doubt due to the previous emotional game vs. the Desert Storm. San Diego took full advantage of Sacramento's fatigue and whipped the RimRockerz by a score of 45-18.

The actual tournament took place the following day (Sunday) with brackets, seedings and opponents based solely on round robbin play. Team Sacramento was seeded sixth (out of 12) and was scheduled to play perennial power Chicago Spin. This was a very good game, however, Sacramento led the entire way and even by double digits at times. The RimRockerz eventually came away with a 56-51 hard fought victory. Paul Demke, Drew B. and Brent Sims paced the RimRockerz with 20, 12 and 11 points. Brent and Drew also added six rebounds each.

The victory in the opening round over Chicago set up a rematch with the San Diego Devils team who easily knocked off the RimRockerz the day before in the round robbin session. Sacramento was determined to make a better showing but got off to a bad start the first half and trailed by 8 points at half time. San Diego increased their league to double digits to open the second half and it looked as if the RimRockerz might go down easily again. Sacramento slowly but surely chipped away at San Diego's lead to pull within only 2 points late in the game and gave themselves the opportunity to win, however in the end, San Diego escaped with a narrow 48-47 victory, however this game helped Team Sacramento earn back their respect after being blown out the previous day by San Diego. San Diego advanced to the championship round to eventually lose to the New York Ballers by 3 points.

Said Sacramento coach Mark Jacobson, "Our team has good reason to feel very proud of ourselves and also to be very optimistic about our chances in future tournaments considering that our team is quite young in comparison to other teams and has many good years ahead of them. All we are missing is a little bit of tournament experience and a bit more playing time together." Jacobson noted that because Team Sacramento consists of all-stars from the basketball league, they are usually playing against rather than with one another. "It's only a matter of time as our young, talented players learn to play together. Sacramento will be a force to be reckoned with," added Jacobson.

Sacramento will be competing for the first time in the Windy City Classic, the national gay and lesbian basketball tournament to be held April 9 and 10 in Chicago. This is the largest gay and lesbian tournament in the world. (www.wcaa.net) The team will be holding fundraisers to help raise money to send players. Fundraisers will include car washes, a silent auction and a pancake breakfast. Their goal is to make enough money to cover all of the players traveling costs to Chicago.

Team Sacramento will be blocking group airfare and group hotel accommodations and invites friends and fans to cheer them on in Chicago. For more information on the team and the league, visit www.sacramentohoops.com

CCH WEEK 6 STANDINGS

MetroPCS, 5-1
Club 21, 4-2
Leyva's, 4-2
The Bolt, 3-3
Faces, 2-4
Valley Rainbow Pages, 0-6

GLBT Volleyball League to Start in Sacramento!

Weekly open gym volleyball for Sacramento's GLBT community is coming in March 2005! The all-new Capital City Volleyball league will begin offering co-ed open gym sessions which will take place every Monday night at Rizal Community Center, located at 7320 Florin Mall Drive near Florin Mall in south Sacramento. All skill levels are welcome!

CCH GLBT Basketball League has rented this facility year-round on Monday nights from 6-10pm and will be giving up two of the four hours to accommodate volleyball. "Combining the two sports on one evening will not only help us pay for the gym, but it also add another option for our community. We have built a very loyal following with the basketball league in a matter of three years so we expect volleyball to also take off and eventually have their own night" noted organizer Mark Jacobson. The league plans to join the North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA) to participate in (and host) tournaments around the USA and Canada. Interested persons can email to SacVball@aol.com

The Bolt &
the Sacramento Valley Bears
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Valentine...
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2560 Boxwood Street.
February 11th from 9 - Midnight
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The Legislative Year Begins

By Boyce Hinman
Chief Lobbyist
The Lambda Letters Project

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND INTERSEX (LGBTI) COMMUNITY HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. Over those years several important state laws have been passed. Employment and housing discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders has been banned. Lesbian and gay domestic partners have been given many of the same rights as heterosexual married couples. Insurance companies that provide spousal premium discounts to married couples are now required to provide the same discounts to registered domestic partners. Progress for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals has been remarkable. Progress for the transgender community has been slower. Progress for intersex people has been virtually non existent at the state level.

The passage of LGBTI positive laws testifies to the growing effectiveness of our community in lobbying for recognition of its rights. The increasing number of state legislators that come from our community certainly helps as well. There are now six out lesbian or gay members of California's state legislature.

Nevertheless, no more than nine or ten bills of benefit to the LGBTI community are introduced each year. Typically several dozen bills of benefit to the women's community or to People of Color are introduced each year. There are more women and Person of Color legislators than LGBTI legislators. But that only partially explains the lower number of bills for our community. Actually, several LGBTI beneficial bills are introduced by straight legislators each year. More legislators from our community might help, but more than increasing the number of LGBTI legislators is needed.

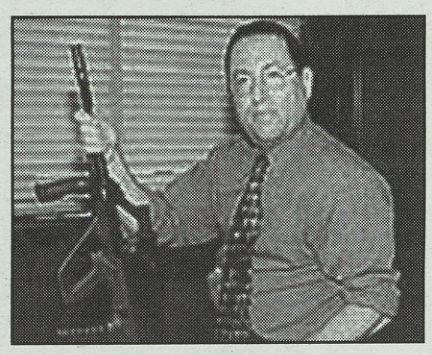
Many bills introduced by legislators are introduced at the request of advocacy groups outside the legislature. The groups who make these requests are called bill sponsors. When a bill is introduced the sponsors generally take on much of the responsibility for building support for the bill among the public and for lobbying in support of the bill in the legislature. Currently there is only one organizations which sponsors bills on behalf of the LGBTI community, Equality California. They do an excellent job and they sometimes sponsor as many as 6 bills a year. They often work in collaboration with a number of other community groups. But there is a limit to the number of bills that any one group can take on. Sponsoring bills is a lot of work.

Our community might be better served if it built a number of organizations able to take on the responsibilities of sponsoring bills. These groups could coordinate their efforts and divide up the bills to be sponsored. This kind of cooperative sponsorship by several organizations could greatly increase the number of beneficial bills introduced each year. It could speed up the progress made by our community. It could also spread the wealth. We could have enough bills being introduced to be making simultaneous legislative progress for all segments of the LGBTI community. We could bring the transgender and intersex communities up to speed in gaining recognition of their rights and needs.

Here are the LGBTI and AIDS bills that have been introduced in the state legislature as of late January. Some of them are bad bills.

HIV/AIDS

AB 73 (Dario Frommer, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would establish the California Rx Prescription Drug Web Site Program to provide information to California residents about options for obtaining prescription drugs at affordable prices. Would require the Web site, at a minimum, provide information about, and establish electronic links to, certain federal, state, and pharmaceutical programs, pharmacies that are located in Canada, England, and Ireland and that meet specified requirements
Status: Referred first to Assembly Health Committee and then to Assembly Business and Professions Committee.



PAUL KORETZ, D-WEST HOLLYWOOD

AB 95 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)
Purpose: Would require manufacturers of drugs for life-threatening chronic conditions that are on the list for Medi-Cal or the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program to pay the state a rebate equal to the costs of marketing that drug. The bill also would require these manufacturers to disclose to the state all costs incurred in the marketing of the drugs to consumers and physicians.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee.

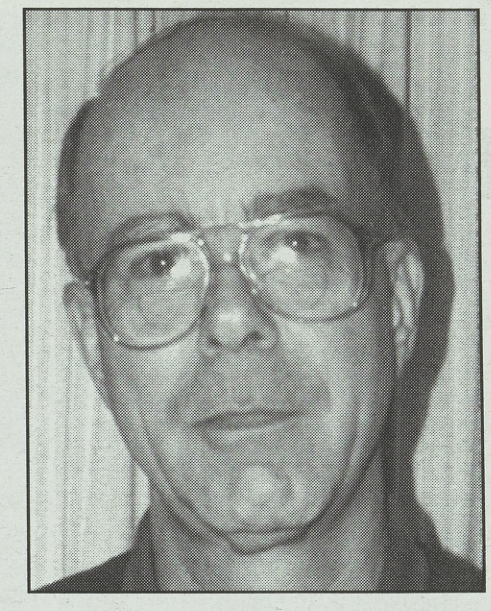
LGBTI

AB 12 (Chuck Devore, R-Irvine)
Purpose: To provide that real property (such as a home) may be transferred to a beneficiary on the death of the owner by recording, prior to the owner's death, a beneficiary deed signed by the owner of the property interest designating a beneficiary of the property. Property transferred this way would not have to go through the long, expensive probate process. This could benefit domestic partners who choose not to register with the state.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

AB 19 (Mark Leno, D- San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow same sex couples to obtain marriage licenses in California and to establish that no clergy or religious organization can be required to solemnize any marriage to which they have a religious objection.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

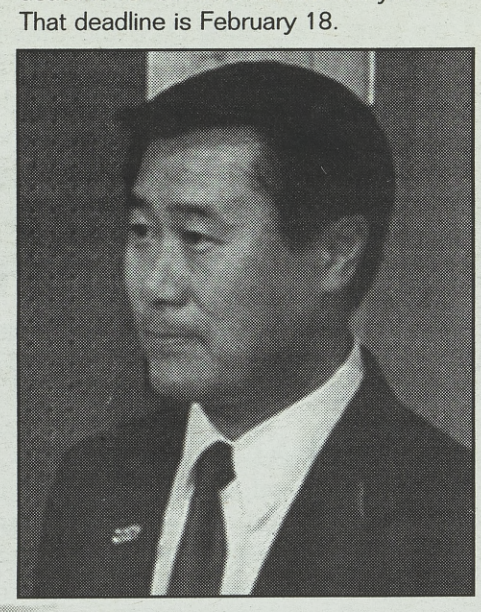
AB ?? (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)
Purpose: Current law has a form statement that candidates for political office may sign on a voluntary basis. It is a pledge to engage in a fair and clean campaign. This bill would amend the pledge to include a statement that the candidate won't use, or permit to be used, any appeal to negative prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
Status: Not yet introduced.

ACA 3 (Ray Haynes, R-Temecula)
Purpose: To amend the state constitution to permanently ban same sex marriage in California and to take away the benefits that domestic partners have obtained in the past few years. Would prohibit the granting of marriage like benefits to them in the future.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Oppose



SCA 1 (Bill Morrow, R-San Juan Capistrano)
Purpose: To amend the state constitution to permanently ban same sex marriage in California and to take away the benefits that domestic partners have obtained in the past few years. Would prohibit the granting of marriage like benefits to them in the future.
Status: Introduced.

A number of groups have been working together on a bill to prohibit insurance companies from refusing to insure transgender people or from refusing to pay for sex reassignment surgery. There has also been some discussion of a bill to prohibit doctors from claiming transgender panic as a basis for refusing to provide care to transgender people. These bills may be introduced prior to the deadline for bill introduction this year. That deadline is February 18.



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STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB SACRAMENTO

4 FREEDOMS: OF SPEECH, OF WORSHIP, FROM FEAR, FROM WANT

Dear Mother, My girlfriend has always known and accepted that I am bisexual. However over the past couple of months she has started behaving jealous and upset over my male sexual encounters. I know I wouldn't be happy pretending to be someone I'm not, but she is pushing me to give up the male encounters I desire and only have a woman to woman relationship with her. She knew who I was when we got together and I don't understand why she is trying to change me now. I don't know what to do. Signed, Not Changing

Girl, first let me say you are not alone honey. For some strange reason, be it man or woman, some seem to feel they can change the things about their chosen mate that they don't like in pursuit of the illusive "perfect partner." However, this never works out. I think they hope that the love you have for them will be so great you will change anything about yourself to become what they think is the perfect mate. Obviously delusional. Of course this doesn't happen, so they become frustrated and start feeling you don't love them enough. Honey, the sad truth is in your situation you need to re-evaluate your relationship and talk to each other about exactly what your thoughts are and how you both are feeling. Once you have discussed everything you can decide if you should continue on in your relationship or end it while you can still be friends. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I have, shall we say, a financially challenged friend that I'm always trying to keep from getting depressed by taking her to dinner or the bar or to the movies. Well, the other night I was taking her to the movies with a couple other friends. We got there early and our friends decided they were hungry and were going to grab a bite to eat at a diner next to the theater. I had already eaten so I told them to go ahead and I'd wait for them in my car because I wanted to listen to music. Well, my friend got all mad that I wasn't going to buy her dinner and then pouted the rest of the night. Was I in the wrong? I felt like telling her she was an ungrateful mutt at first then felt bad like I should have given her money to eat. *Signed, Guilty*

OK honey, reality check here. This person is not being your friend they are just being lazy and taking advantage of you. Don't be a sucker! I'm sure your friend—and I use that term loosely—just needs some tough love. If your always doing for someone they will never do for themselves. Be a friend and make them pay their own way. Your friendship, if it is friendship, will become stronger and your friend will respect herself and have more pride than to expect you pay for everything. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, My Sister is going through a terrible situation and I don't know as her big brother how to advise her. Her husband's mother has been a drug addict most of her life and now has Hep C and is in the final stages including psychotic episodes. They have three small children and the mother and her husband want to move in with them. She is frightened for their children but doesn't know how to get through to her husband. What can I say or do to help my sister & her kids? Signed Big Brother Blues

This is not an easy question to answer. I think all you can do as an outsider is to give your sis emotional support and suggest to her and her husband that it may be better for the mother to be taken care of in a 24-hour care facility. That way Psycho Chicken can be monitored by professionals that get paid to keep her and the rest of the world safe. If that doesn't work, suggest she take an extended vacation with the children. It may be the jolt her husband needs to come to his senses. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I am in a long term relationship with a married man. He and his partner have an open relationship and we all seem to get along fine. We see each other about once a month. He always tells me I am the only person he sees besides his partner. Well the last time we got together he gave me crabs and then never called to tell me he had them and I know he must know. We talk all the time and he always acts like nothing ever happened. He keeps trying to get together again but I'm feeling like I can't trust him now. Should I call him on it? Signed, Crabby

Child, what the hell are you thinking? Of course you need to call him and tell him what happened regardless of who brought the critters on board and stop pretending like it didn't happen. He may not realize he has them—hard as that might be to believe. You have to be responsible and man up like you have a pair and talk this out with him. One more thing—if this other guy is his partner, what does that make you? *Love, Mother*

TALKTOMOTHER@Q-RAGG.COM

"Talk To Mother" is for entertainment purposes only. Neither The Q-Ragg nor the author can be held liable for any injury or loss, perceived or actual resulting from the above mentioned entertainment.

Q-RAGG NEWSPAPER

717 K Street, Ste. 519, Sacramento CA 95814
newsline 916.247.7244 faxline 916.442.4006

WHAT IS NEWS

Many of us are used to thinking that news is something "beyond ourselves"—Federal Marriage Amendments, San Francisco Parades, and the like. But news that interests a community is sometimes about…YOU. As members of the Sacramento GLBT community, we sometimes get so bogged down in the news of the world, we lose track of what's going on in our own community. Q-Ragg wants to not only keep our community up to speed on what's going on within our city limits, but celebrate who we are and what accomplishments we make along the way. Q-Ragg strives to be Sacramento's hometown GLBT newspaper, reporting on the lives of our community.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Some folks may think it's odd that Q-Ragg calls folks by their first names, uses a familiar voice for feature stories, and allows Q-Voice to present opinions that go against the gay status quo. Q-Ragg believes a community paper is a mirror of its hometown and that, in essence, we are all neighbors. We are one community with many voices, and however different those voices may be, we are all working, ultimately, for the same goal: a strong, cohesive community treated with equality and respect. To achieve that, we've got to get familiar with one another, and what our community has to offer us.

WWW.Q-RAGG.COM

SEND US YOUR Q-MUNITY NEWS

SEND US NEWS (news@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to fill its pages with the Sacramento GLBT community and that means YOU. Keep our email and fax number handy, and when you come across something you think is interesting, send it to us. Stories such as the Lavender Library is now renting the new *Queer As Folk*, the Lambda Center got 20 new volunteers in one month, you just signed a book deal, you went to the capitol to protest and want to tell how it affected you,a new nonprofit just opened its doors, the Valley Rainbow Pages just hit record sales, your fundraiser had excellent attendance. All these are things we may overlook as not newsworthy, but Q-Ragg believes these are the things that reflect our community and who we are, as much as stories about the FMA and SF Pride, perhaps even more so, as they are close to home and involve the people and places we see on a regular basis.

SEND US EVENTS (events@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to make certain your event is listed in our calendar. When submitting an event, please be certain to include the Who, What, When, Where and any details about the event we should know. Also, please include the name, phone number and email address of who to contact for follow-up information. Photos can be emailed to: photos@q-ragg.com (*Preferred photo type: tif or jpg image, 300 dpi. Hard copy images may be mailed to our office, or dropped off in person during business hours.*)

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING Q- SACRAMENTO'S GLBT Q-MUNITY VOICE!

Love is the Law

By M.A. Ross, Q-Ragg

Photo By Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

THERE WERE 11 WINS THIS ELECTION AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE. ONCE AGAIN THE PREJUDICE OF OTHERS REARS IT'S UGLY HEAD AND TRIES TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. IT'S THE SAME OLD PEOPLE, TOSSING OUT THE SAME OLD ARGUMENTS AND REASONING TO DENY CIVIL RIGHTS TO AMERICANS. SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A FEW OF THEIR QUESTIONS AND ARGUMENTS AND ANSWER THEM.

• We don't want any queers gitn' married!
Oh yeah, that's right, it might somehow undermine your marriage… how exactly?

• By destroying the very foundation of marriage!
And what is the foundation of marriage?

• Why it's love...
I have love!

• ...and faith!
I have faith too…

• and children!
Well, I don't have any children…

• See, there you go it's not natural...
Wrong! But, we'll get to the natural part later. You didn't let me finish. My partner and I of fifteen years can't make any children of our own, but we could adopt a child that a heterosexual couple made and didn't want. I'm sure you have a few unwanted children lying around somewhere?

• What and let you queer some kid, no way!
So you're telling me that I have the power to make someone a homosexual!

• YES, by influencing young-un's with your sick perverted lifestyle!
Hey look buddy, when I was growing up I was bombarded with influential images of the "heterosexual lifestyle" and little to none of the "homosexual lifestyle" from as far back as I could remember and I still turned out queer! All that straight lifestyle conditioning from my parents, relatives, friends, & institutional learning facilities, all the "straight media" I was inundated with (television, magazines, books, music, movies, toys, etc.) to sway me to be straight, failed! What makes you think I could queer a child, that wasn't queer already? Hell, I think gay couples should adopt older kids who are queer, so that they can help them deal with the problems that misguided hets pile on top of their already weighted shoulders! Why don't you tell me what you're really afraid of? Its pedophilia isn't it!

• You and all your NAMLBA friends just want our children! Sex before eight or it's too late!
I'm gay not a pedophile! I like men… Rough, tough, blue collar, ADULT MEN! I have no interest in children sexually!! Pedophilia isn't strictly a homosexual trait you know? There are plenty of perverts on the hetro-side of that fence! Same sex pedophilia is just disproportionately reported in the news because it's so scandalous. Got any other reasons you don't want to let homosexuals to marry?

• I don't want my children seeing two men kissing or holding each other in public!
You don't seem to pitch too much a fit when it's a man and a woman doing it?

• That's different!
It's different, how?

• It just is!
Yeah, it just is… ignorant that you don't have an answer to my question!

• It's gross!
Yeah, well, do you know what happens when I see a man and a woman kiss?

• You get sick to your stomach?
No… I mind my own damn business! What the hell do I care if I see a couple kissing and holding hands in public? Unless they are trying to make a love connection on my lap, it's none of my business.

• How am I supposed to explain this to my children!
Number one, if they saw it more often they wouldn't think twice about it. Second, the only reason they would make a big deal out of it is because you did to begin with. Thirdly; it's none of their damn business!

• Well, God and Jesus and the Bible say...
• Well, Allah and Muhammad and the Koran say...

• Well, God and Moses and the Torah say...
Yeah, yeah, yeah, go $ell it on the mountain. The pitch is hackneyed and I am not buying it! People don't have to get married with a religious blessing. A marriage can be a momentous religious experience but it's more of a governmental recognition of couples and the establishment of family rights. That's what most homosexuals really want anyway, the same rights as heterosexual couples have.

• So you just want special rights...
Homosexuals don't want "special rights" we want "equal rights." We live under the same laws as heterosexuals, why are we not afforded the same protections? Special rights would be more like having a tax exempt status for your house of worship and then passing out voting guides that favor one party over the other or that push for a specific bill.
There are numerous laws in several state constitutions that say marriage is only recognized as one man and one woman.
That is just bad law. We've had bad laws against interracial marriages too! Not only undemocratic laws against blacks marrying whites, but against Asians marrying whites as well! *Nowadays those laws seem asinine, dated, and racist. I'm sure in time, history will show the laws that kept two people of the same sex from getting married will be seen in the same light. To keep the civil liberties of marriage from homosexuals is unconstitutional!*

• You can get married as long as it's to a woman. You just hate women don't ya?
I don't hate women. My mother is a woman! I like women and can even appreciate their beauty. I just don't want to have sex with them or get married to one. You'd rather I live a lie and be miserable so you don't have to deal with the reality of homosexuality? I lived that life for eighteen years and frankly it wasn't that fun for me or those around me, so I'll just have to pass on that life path.

• If we let homosexuals get married then what's next polygamy, bestiality, brother and sister or brother and brother? Where would it end?
If someone is passionate enough to want to marry a bunch of other people they better have the money to support them and the patients of glacier to put up with them all! Truthfully putting up with one spouse's idiosyncrasies is enough for me. Other than that I don't really see a problem with it. As for bestiality, animals can't really give consent under the law so the argument is moot. Incest is another matter, there are medically ethical questions that arise when the birth of children are involved. Frankly I think the incest question is a red herring to distract from the real issues of civil rights. Besides what sibling combination marriage (brother/sister; brother/brother; sister/sister) would last more *than a few days? They know each other's foibles & bad habits all to well* and more than likely had to put up with more of their crap while they were growing up than they could stand anyway!

• How do you find love in a man's hairy ass?
The same way you find love in a woman's hairy sn-tch… Next question!

• You know it's Adam & Eve, not Adam and Steve!
Ever think "Steve" might be one of nature's ways of saying Eve and Adam were selfishly overpopulating the planet?

• Silly faggot dicks are for chicks!
Stupid het my needs wouldn't be met!

• We have long standing family traditions here in America, so love it or leave it...
I love America too and most of its long-standing family traditions, but this is an outright denial of civil rights, so I think it has little to do with loving it or leaving it and a lot more to do with fix it or f-ck it!

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Q-EVENTS

To get your event listed, send your press release to: Q-Ragg, 717 K Street, Suite 519, Sacramento, CA 95814 or fax 916.442.4009 You can also send your info to us in an email at events@q-ragg.com. Remember to include the who, what, where, when & why of your event!

February 2005

2 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step, Sacdancesport.com, reserve your space now! 359-5229 or sacdancesport@aol.com

3 Thursday

I-POD party, Uptown Studios and Outword. 6-8pm three songs on your i-pod and we will blast them in the gallery. You don't have to bring an ipod, just bring your ears to listen, enjoy some hors d'oeuvres and mix it up. Bar benefits our friends at CGNIE, 912 1/2 J St.

4 Friday

Uptown Studios Erotica Lesbian Couples photo session 6-10 pm for the 2006 calendar. Email tina to get on the model list. tina@uptownstudios.net

6 Sunday

Pancake Breakfast, Sac. Valley Leathermen, Community Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, FACES 20th And K Sts, $6 All You Can Eat, SVLclub.org

7 Monday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 7-8pm $29, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. www.Sacdancesport.com, 214-0933 or sacdancesport@aol.com

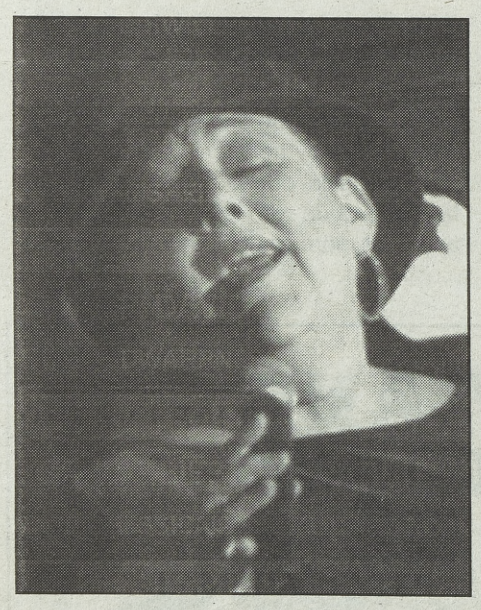
9 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step, Sacdancesport.com, reserve your space now! 359-5229 or sacdancesport@aol.com

10 Thursday

Community Meeting, 6-6:45pm, Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St.

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, (see ad)



CABARET STAR GAYIEL VON PERFORMS LIVE CABARET EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY IN THE FRONT LOUNGE OF THE DELTA KING, 7-10PM, 1000 FRONT ST., OLD TOWN SAC

11 Friday

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, (see ad)

Women's Mixer at Uptown Studios. A women only event. 5-8 pm, Cool art and hot women. Hors d'oeuvres, At 8 we leave and hit a local restaurant for dinner. tina@uptownstudios.net

12 Saturday

Second Saturday Art Walk, downtown

2nd Saturday Potluck, Sac Gender Assoc., 6:30pm-9pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St, 364-7212

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, (see ad)

14 Monday

Introduction to Social Dancing, $29, 7-8pm Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. www.Sacdancesport.com, 214-0933 or sacdancesport@aol.com

15 Tuesday

Sacramento PFLAG, 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way, Sacramento Guest speaker: The brother of Gary Matson (one of the two Gay men killed near Redding in 1997) 978-0410 or sacramentopflag.org.

16 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, $39, 6-7pm, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step, Sacdancesport.com, reserve your space now! 359-5229 or sacdancesport@aol.com

17 Thursday

MCC Transgender Support Group, 6:30pm -9pm, Sacramento MCC Cathedral Of Promise, 10500 Chaplain Ave, Mather AFB, 916.364.4325

18 Friday

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, (see ad)

Western Regional LGBTQIA College Conference addresses the health and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals. Keynote speakers: Monroe France, Lani Ka' ahumanu, and Emi Koyama. slatkinson@ucdavis.edu, 530-752-2452

19 Saturday

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, (see ad)

Children's African Lullaby Puppet Show and Drumming, Written and produced by CW Hurni, 12pm, another children's special event. Bring pillows for the kids to sit on. Snacks provided, drinks available. $7.50 advance $10 door, sacsisterhood.com

20 Sunday

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, 2427 17th St., off Broadway 2pm, $15, 444-8229, Lambdaplayers.com

21 Monday

Lesbian Cancer Survivor Support Group, 6:30pm at Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J Street, roxanne1040@aol.com

23 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step, Sacdancesport.com, reserve your space now! 359-5229 or sacdancesport@aol.com

25 Friday

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, 2427 17th St., off Broadway 8pm, $15, 444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

26 Saturday

Just Us Girls, Lambda Players, (see ad)

Uptown Girlz, 8-10pm, Drag Queen Show, $15 advance $20 door, Drinks available and benefit CGNIE along with hors d'oeuvres. Doors open at 7:30pm. sacsisterhood.com

28 Monday

7-8pm Introduction to Social Dancing $29, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. Sacdancesport.com, 214-0933

Sacramento Theatre

Big River

California Musical Theatre's Broadway Series presents the Deaf West Theatre production. Set in 1840s rural America, the musical chronicles the exploits of Huckleberry Finn and his friend Jim, a runaway slave. It continues at 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Feb. 1; 2 and 8 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays; 2 and 7:30 p.m. next Sunday; and 2 p.m. Feb. 6. Community Center Theater, 1301 L St. $15-$65. (916) 264-5181.

Blithe Spirit

Noel Coward's comedy is presented by the Chautauqua Playhouse. It continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sunday and Feb. 6, through Feb. 12. 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. $12 general, $11 seniors and students. (916) 489-7529.

Dear Brutus

J.M. Barrie's play is presented by the Actor's Theatre of Sacramento. It continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 6. $14 Fridays and Saturdays, $12 Sundays, $2 discount for seniors and students. 1616 Del Paso Blvd. (916) 925-6579.

Jack and Jill

The Delta King Theatre presents Jane Martin's romantic comedy. It continues at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays (dinner seating at 6 and 6:30 p.m.), 7 p.m. Saturdays (dinner seatings at 5 and 5:30 p.m.), 2 p.m. Sundays (12:30 p.m. brunch), through March 6. Dinner and show $45-$49, brunch and show $42, show only $8-$22. 1000 Front St., Old Sacramento. (916) 995-5464.

Just Us Girls **BEST BEST**

Lambda Players kicks off their first show in their new theatre, a lesbian comedy set in an LGBT library. a women's discussion group goes crazy when a mysterious woman from the librarian's past shows up with a secret . A world premiere comedy by T. Swanner, directed by M. Burlingame. Runs at 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays. $15. 2427 17th St, off broadway. Sacramento. (916) 444-8229.

Kimberly Akimbo

The B Street Theatre presents David Lindsay-Abaire's offbeat comedy. Bee staff writer Jim Carnes says it's all crazy characters, profane language and off-the-wall humor. But it's also, at bottom, a sweet play about surviving the insanity of life. Performances continue at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 5 and 9 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 2, 9 and 16; through Feb. 27. B Street Theatre, 27th and B streets. $20 Tuesdays-Thursdays and Sundays, $25 Fridays and Saturdays. Senior and student discounts available. (916) 443-5300.

The Nerd

Garbeau's Dinner Theatre presents Larry Shue's comedy. Shue has a nice little story to tell, but he makes everything in the play extra big, especially the physical comedy, and the subtle message disappears under all the shenanigans. It continues at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays (dinner seating 6-6:30 p.m.), 2:30 p.m. Sundays (brunch seating 1-1:30 p.m.), through Feb. 27. 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Dinner and show $34-$39 and $21-$26, show only $20 and $8. (916) 985-6361.

The Old Settler

John Henry Redwood's comedy/drama about life in Harlem in 1943 is directed by Andrea Boronell and presented by Celebration Arts Theatre. It continues at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 26. 4469 D St. $15 general; $13 seniors, students and SARTA members; $8 Thursdays. (916) 455-2787.

Pageant **BEST BEST**

A musical spoof of beauty pageants with men portraying the female contestants. The laugh-filled satire is presented by the Studio Theatre. Extended shows continue at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 27. 1028 R St. $17-$20. (916) 446-2668.

JUST US GIRLS LAMBDA PLAYERS

Steel Magnolias

Robert Harling's comedic drama about a group of women who cry and laugh through life's hardships and triumphs is presented by Runaway Stage Productions. Jim Carnes writes that director Bob Baxter creates a nice ensemble feel with his cast. It continues at 8 p.m. today and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday (last show). 24th Street Theatre, 2791 24th St. $17 general, $15 seniors, students and SARTA members, $12 ages 12 and younger. (916) 207-1226.

Top Girls **BEST BEST**

Wild dinner parties, sisters, betrayal, greed and Margaret Thatcher are all part of Caryl Churchill's play. It is presented by City Theatre at Sacramento City College, and continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturday, Sundays, Feb. 3 and 5; through Feb. 6. Art Court Theatre, 3835 Freeport Blvd. $12 general, $10 seniors, students with ID, SARTA members and persons with disabilities; $7 matinees. Children ages 6 and younger are not admitted. (916) 558-2228.

The Vagina Monologues

SacActors.Com produces Eve Ensler's funny and provocative play with rotating casts. Performances have been extended and continue at 8 p.m. Fridays, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Feb. 27. Wm. J. Geery Theater, 2130 L St. $17.50 general, (916) 739-0654.

BUSINESSES WISHING TO BE LISTED IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY WITHOUT PLACING A DISPLAY AD WILL BE CHARGED A $10 PER ISSUE FEE.

AIDS-HIV SERVICES

Breaking Barriers, 447-AIDS
www.breakingbarriers-sacramento.org
Capitol City AIDS Fund
www.capcityaidsfund.org

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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www.lambdaplayers.com
Lavender Library, 492-0558,
www.lavenderlibrary.org
Sacramento Men's Chorus 484-5789
www.SacMensChorus.org.
Open Book, Ltd.
www.openbookltd.com
Uptown Studios, 446–1082
912 1/2 J St., www.uptownstudiosgallery.com

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS

The Bolt, 649-8420
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Club 21, 443-1537
1119 21st St, www.club21sacramento.com
FACES Nightclub, 448-7798
20th & K, www.faces.net

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Rainbow Chamber Commerce, 532-3347
www.rainbowchamber.com
Valley Rainbow Pages, 444-2322
www.valleyrainbowpages.com

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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www.lambdasac.org

FAMILY SUPPORT

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www.sacramentopflag.com

GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN

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INSURANCE SERVICES

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MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Sac. Valley Leathermen, 486-5500
www.svlclub.org
Sacramento Valley Bears
www.sacvalleybears.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography by Larry, 645-8447

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GBM—Happy, Healthy HIV+, non-smoker, social drinker, 32 yrs old, 6'1", sculpted body but down to earth. Looking for average to fit GHM or GWM into dancing, movies and romance. Send a reply, prefer with picture. Code CASAC02

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EXP. DATE: ____/____/____ SIGNATURE _____

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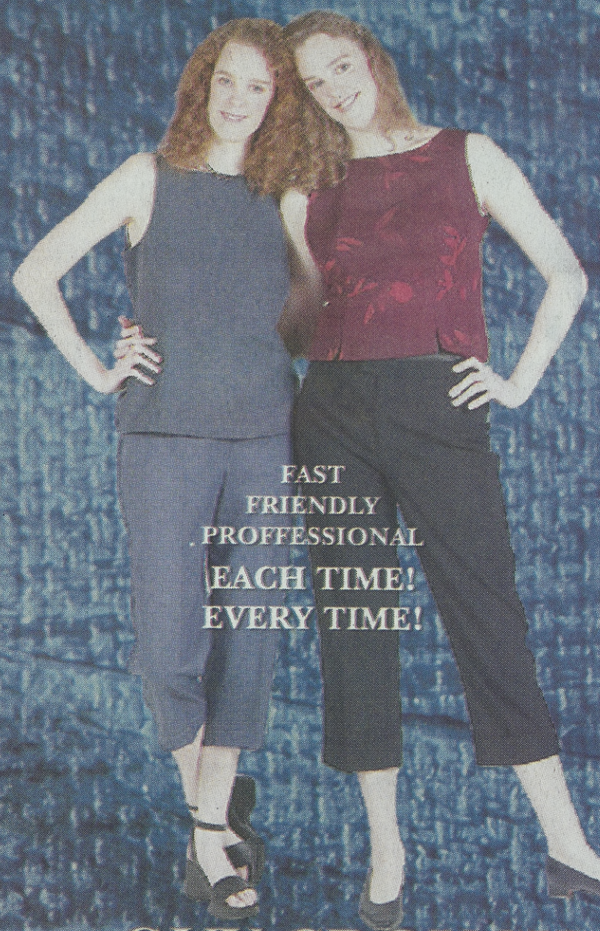

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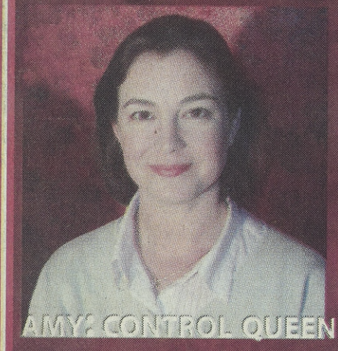
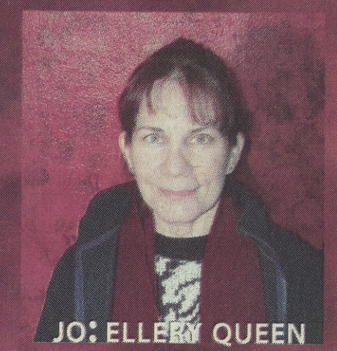
LAMBDA PLAYERS PRESENT



AMY: CONTROL QUEEN

JEN: DRAMA QUEEN



JO: ELLERY QUEEN

PAT: SPORTS QUEEN

Q RAGG
FEBRUARY 2005
VALENTINE'S ISSUE

DOT: BEAUTY QUEEN

IDA: ROMANCE QUEEN

SYD: DRAG QUEEN

NAN: ATTITUDE QUEEN

A WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY

INSIDE: Coming Out at 19, Swanner & Judd's Oscar Picks, Sam's Rant, Q-Valley Fresno, Lambda Players Fundraiser, New Column: Q-Fashion. Q-unity News, Talk To Mother & More!

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